

I.R. ... REGY  
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THE

# Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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## Eccelesiastical Affairs.

### LEGISLATION FOR THE IRISH CHURCH.

THE General Election being over, and an Administration under Mr. Gladstone's presidency having been formed, journalists are naturally beginning to discuss the legislative provisions regarded by each of them as most fitted to give effect to the policy of disestablishment and disendowment in Ireland. The work, no doubt, will prove a difficult one, but there is capacity enough in the Cabinet to grapple successfully with greater difficulties than any which their chief and distinctive enterprise will present. Happily, according to our judgment, they will have no precedents to guide or to fetter them, and hence there is the less temptation to shun all appearance of originality, the besetting sin of English statesmen. The thing to be done has never been done before in this country, and the way in which it were best to be done almost necessarily implies more or less of novelty.

The object we have in view in the present and perhaps two or three following articles is, not to suggest the framework of an Act of Parliament, but to point out as clearly as we are able certain results which, in our opinion, the Act for Disestablishing and Disendowing the Irish Church should be drawn up to achieve.

First of all, then, and—in the view of those who believe in the spiritual functions of a Christian Church—most important of all, any legislation which shall adequately express the idea presented to the country by Mr. Gladstone, and by the country approved at the General Election, must sever the bonds which unite the Anglican Church in Ireland to the State, not only entirely, but finally and visibly. We speak now rather in the interests of the Church than of the State. Both are presumed to derive some special advantages from the union—the Church in *status*, social influence, and security of income—the State in the power it gains of exercising a moderating restraint upon the clergy, and of commanding for itself their general moral support. It ought, we think, to be accepted as a peremptory rule, that the State as well as the Church should forego all pretence to the benefits which are supposed to accrue to it from the connection about to be dissolved. The Irish Church ought to be left as an ecclesiastical and spiritual institution really as well as nominally free and independent. We the more strenuously contend for this, because

under a plausible pretext of avoiding technical difficulties, proposals have been started that Parliament should take upon itself to declare that the Irish Church of the future shall in respect of its articles, liturgy, and discipline, be the Irish Church of the past, and that, if she desires it, the appointment of her bishops shall remain in the hands of the Premier for the time being. Every one must be aware that projects of this kind are put forward by politicians in the interest of the State, not by devout men, lay or clerical, in the interest of their Church. It may be readily foreseen that a strong effort will be made to keep the spiritual institution under secular control, and so to contrive the process of disestablishment as to stereotype its present helplessness and subjection to the civil authority, whilst depriving it of its compensating privileges. There are not a few who would be glad to see the Irish Church, in some fashion or another, "a branch of the civil service," but without a legal provision or acknowledged precedence.

We trust that Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet will carefully steer clear of this danger. For, in the first place, an arrangement of this kind, even if assented to by the Irish hierarchy, can only be arrived at by a clear breach of trust. The Anglican Church in Ireland was distinctly promised freedom and independence by the same statesman, acting in the behalf of the same great political party, who uttered her doom of disestablishment and disendowment, and he is not the man "to keep the word of promise to the ear, and break it to the hope." Moreover, we find it hard to believe that either Mr. Gladstone will be inclined, or that his colleagues will compel him, to put out of sight altogether the essential fitness of things. The Irish Church can only hope to succeed in its true mission, in proportion as she is mistress of her own movements, speaks from her own heart, and is known by all the world to be divested of all authoritative or semi-authoritative political bias. The least mark of the secular power upon her forehead would go far to ruin her spiritual influence. And lastly, the continuance of any legal restriction upon her freedom other than what is common to all voluntary religious communities, would be regarded not merely with disfavour, but as a serious offence by the vast majority of those Nonconformist electors, whether in England or in Scotland, who lent such material assistance towards achieving a triumph for Mr. Gladstone's policy. The independence of the Church in Ireland, as it regards the control of the civil Government, was a motive second only in importance in their minds to that of doing justice to Ireland, and sore will be their disappointment, and keen their anger, if they find that one of the principal ends for which they religiously strove, is to be sacrificed to quell the vain apprehensions of politicians.

The difficulty, moreover, of reconstituting the Protestant Episcopal Church of Ireland on a basis of freedom, is far from insuperable. It need not be done by the authority of Parliament—it may very well be done by its own members. There is no necessity for hurry. The Irish Church will not at once be appreciably affected by the Act of disestablishment. True it will be nominally resolved into an aggregate of unconnected individuals by the withdrawal from the existing body of the cementing element of public law, but the actual pro-

cess of withdrawal will be extremely gradual. On the morrow of the passing of the Act of disestablishment, the Irish Church would, in point of fact, occupy precisely the same position as it did the day before. It is not a corporation in the same sense as a municipality is a corporation. The law of dissolution would not begin to operate upon the body taken as a whole, but upon "corporations sole," as death removed one or another. All life interests are to be saved, and life interests carry with them, as far as they go, relations, responsibilities, duties. Three or four years would, doubtless, clear off a considerable number of the clerical staff, but would not otherwise materially alter the general character of the body. Surely, within that period, or even a shorter one, the members of the Church might frame a deed of constitution for itself. All that will be required of Parliament is to give the requisite legal facilities. Congresses are not so utterly unknown in our days, as to render any project of a Constituent Congress of the Irish Church ridiculous or impracticable. The probabilities are that any such fairly representative assembly would accept at once the articles, formularies, and mode of discipline, of the Church of England, would prefer to remain in spiritual connection with it, and would be satisfied, at least for the present, with a *minimum* of change. But it would also, most likely, take powers for the future, and lay down the conditions under which it might hereafter, if so disposed, modify its own constitution, revise its formularies, and adapt itself to the outward changes of its position. How the Church would see fit to act, however, is no concern of ours. The obligation resting upon us is to set it free when we resume the national property now appropriated to its use. On the methods to be adopted in securing this result, we hope to say a few words in our next number. Meanwhile, we commend to the notice and study of our readers the *resumé* we have given in another page of the opinions of the press.

### THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.

OUR readers will no doubt remember how disappointed was the celebrated knight of Cervantes when he thought Sancho Panza would spontaneously bestow upon himself that grievous bastinado which was necessary to produce the enfranchisement of Dulcinea. Fable lives again in men's daily doings. If we look well, we can read it clear and shining between the straggling lines of every-day experience.

The Rev. Baldwin Brown did a chivalrous thing last week; but we fear he must now be feeling as ruefully disappointed in the result as ever the Knight of the Rueful Countenance felt in the wily and careful Sancho. To suppose anything else would simply be to insult Mr. Brown—to ignore his manhood and his high sense of honour. Depending on the delicate and generous and consistent character of the *Spectator*, he ventured to make a slight remonstrance with that journal for its statement that the care of Congregational ministers was limited to those who supported them, and kindred philosophic, well-weighted utterances. In reply he received a well-simulated pat on the back, together with an assurance that, although the remark was a little hasty, the exceptions only proved the rule—"there are so few Mr. Browns." This is the *Spectator's* candid and ingenuous way of dealing with the question when it has been convicted of an error to which it has actually pleaded guilty—a bit of writing so naive, so delicate, and full of beautiful and tolerant wisdom, that we must really give it in full:—

We are glad to call attention to a striking letter from



Mr. Baldwin Brown, an eminent Independent minister, controverting our somewhat hasty remark last week on the advantages of the parochial system in giving the clergy a greater sense of duty towards all men, whether formally of their Church or not, than Dissenting ministers are wont to feel. Mr. Brown's letter shows how little this expresses the higher aims of the Dissenting ministers of our own day, but there are so few Mr. Browns.

We cannot think Mr. Brown will be satisfied with this exceedingly flattering personal reference, while the Dulcinea on whose behalf he took up his spear—a large and hardworking body of men—is still under “Broad” Church ban and bond, and the wily Sancho Panza is still un-self-bastinadoed.

But it is no new thing this to witness in the *Spectator*. Now and again it betrays such absolute and apparently wilful ignorance of easily ascertainable features of Dissenting life that anything in the shape of blunder as to fact might well be forgiven it, were it not that it betrays an *animus*. Writers who do not know the difference between Close and Open Communion Baptists, who actually confuse Presbyterians with Independents, and speak implicitly of the Free Church of Scotland as a Voluntary Church, are not to be depended on for much; and the ecclesiastical history to be gathered from the half-addled eggs of their uneasy, painful, and prolonged hebdomadal broodings, would surely present space enough at once for humour and pity, in view of the “note of omniscience” sounding through it all, were anybody to carefully gather it up and digest it in short compass.

But would it not be well for the *Spectator* to keep its own hands clean, and to eschew even the shadow of that *unscrupulous* partisanship with which, somewhat dangerously as it seems to us, it bluntly charges High-Church bishops? At this time of day it is sad to see men so wilfully blinded that, though gifted with finest insight, they cannot see the real significance of what is going on under their very noses, and wantonly and gratuitously kick those in whom they might one day find allies in important work—in whom, indeed, they have already a knot of allies, if there are even “a few Mr. Browns,” let us hope, for the nation's good, with the ever-growing possibility of more. We well remember hearing a thoughtful gentleman—a member of the Church of England and not by any means a partisan—speak thus in effect:—“If you wish to superfine bigotry and intolerance, go to the noisier Broad-Church men; we know what the High-Church people are, and can meet them; but when even the *breadth* and liberality in you become intolerance, how great is that intolerance.” Practically, the last issue of the *Spectator's* Churchism is more contemptibly narrow than that of either High-Church or Evangelicals; because these at least do not pique themselves upon all-including sympathies, and are not thus absolutely self-deluded and deluding.

We know not how Mr. Baldwin Brown must feel under this his later brotherly recognition; we are puzzled to think how he will act. His position truly is delicate and difficult. Nor can we advise him. Only as we began with one fable, we must lighten our withdrawal from this subject by reference to another. In the old romances it is told of Sir Launce Pitie that having freed an imprisoned damsel, he took her to be his own prize. “Ah, Sir Knight,” cried the lady, “this is most unloyally done of thee. Now know I what thou art, and I am the wofullest lady in the world; for lo, thou hast rescued me from another, and then hast taken me to be thine own prize.” What a truth in these old fables!

#### ECCLIASTICAL NOTES.

We commented, if, indeed, we did comment, upon the meeting of the Christian Knowledge Society last week, in the mildest words which could be found in “Johnson's Dictionary.” It seemed to us that the meeting was uproarious and disgraceful beyond anything we had ever witnessed. We passed by when it was at its height, and shall never forget the impression which the sight conveyed of clerical courtesy and gentlemanliness. Still, we said nothing about it, waiting, rather, to see if Church people themselves would not say something. The daily newspaper reports were, in our judgment, considerably toned down. What we saw—unused as we are to exhibitions of the kind—was a meeting of Bedlamites, but having a fear that this was the way in which Church of England clergymen ordinarily conducted their business, we said nothing. Perhaps Bedlamism was the right method of proceeding; perhaps it was necessary to “the cloth”; and perhaps it was in itself really gentlemanly. Well, we have been turning these things over in our mind for a week, and we are somewhat thankful, at last, to find a vindication of them. This vindication comes from the pen of the

Rev. James Skinner—a man well known in High-Church circles—and Mr. Skinner writes:—

It is said that the “Churchmen” were the main disturbers. I think the Colenso party bore, at least, an equal share in the mad excitement. I was in an extremely good place (near the platform and on a level with it) for judging. I noticed one eager Colensoite, sitting (with no discomfort to irritate him) at the bottom of the speaker's table (not far from the Dean of Canterbury and Mr. Colquhoun), the pang of whose sharp piercing voice, shouting “No, no!” whenever he was displeased, was heard far above every other variety of din—to whom alone I owe the headache from which I have not recovered yet.

But, on our side, I admit, the noisy voices were very many and very powerful. How could it be otherwise? To have been patient, under such provocation, would have betokened indifference to the honour of God our Saviour. Rudeness and clamour are, in themselves, shameful and unworthy weapons. But even these, when they only indicate an intense determination of the will to confess Christ,—may be vindicated. Imperturbable weakness and forbearance are not, in themselves, virtues. And when they declare for “peace at any price,” and stand out obstinately for a compromise in things wherein one side or another must be taken, they do but minister to selfishness and sin.

On the whole, there can be no doubt that the noise and rudeness of the Church party on Tuesday was a discredit to its human nature. But its enthusiasm and excitement for the honour of faith was a tribute to the singleness of its purpose and the fixed determination of its will.

Was there ever a better discrimination than this? We all know the words in Hudibras—

“What in the captain,” &c.,

and never were they better illustrated than in Mr. Skinner's letter. Here we learn that what in Evangelicals and Broad Churchmen is noise and rudeness, is, in the “Church” party, simply “enthusiasm and excitement.” Well, we thought we saw more last Tuesday, and somehow or other, as we looked, our natural reverence of the clerical nature and costume became “small by degrees.” But, after reading Mr. Skinner's letter, what is there to say? What we took for noise in both was noise only in one, and merely enthusiasm in the other. All we can say is, that we have “lived and learned,” and if sounds and attitudes are to be taken into consideration, that we ought, according to Mr. Skinner, to have lived and learned a great deal in the past week. Unfortunately, however, our natural faculties are incapable of detecting the essential difference that exists between rudeness in an Evangelical and rudeness—we beg his pardon—in a High Churchman. We had thought that both and all—as we saw them—were unworthy of association with gentlemen; but our idea of gentlemen in public conference was derived from the debates of the Houses of Lords and Commons and the conferences of the Liberation Society. Clergymen, of course, being supernaturally endowed, have different ideals from these.

And not clergymen only. Will the reader turn to page 8 of the *Times* of Monday, column six, and read the proceedings under the head “Vice-Chancellor's Court, December 21,” when Sir J. Stuart presided. We are sorry to say it, but a Chancery barrister has remarked to us that solicitors who want practice always send their cases to Sir John Stuart's court, because they are sure his decisions will be reversed. We are not sure that Sir John Stuart's decision in this case ought to be reversed, but, on the contrary, it seems to us, as far as the evidence has been printed, to have been in accordance, not merely with legal, but with moral equity. But why should the Vice-Chancellor take occasion to vent his spleen in this matter upon Dissenters:—

And what was the character of the disputes? One of the allegations of the trustees was that Mr. Thoresby, the present minister, was a Congregationalist minister. He had denied it on his oath, and the foundation seems to have been that he had once preached in a Congregationalist chapel; but he had been a minister of Lady Huntingdon's Connexion for many years, and had attended the meetings of the Conference, with which the trustees had picked a quarrel; and because he, with charity extending beyond mere sectarianism, when the school was in want of funds, had appealed to the Congregationalist Society for funds, and had received funds from them, and because he had once preached in a Congregationalist church, they attempted to deprive this school of the benefit of property which had been left to them for the clothing and education of the children of the poor. Nothing was to be gained by such quarrels as these, but he supposed it was in the nature of Dissenters, who began by dissenting from the Church of England, to dissent among themselves. It was from this spirit of dissent that these quarrels and disputes had arisen, and this spirit had animated the trustees throughout their defence.

He supposed it was in the nature of Dissenters—not at all, of course, in the nature of the Church of England? And what a very dignified observation for a judge to make! remarkably dignified, in fact—especially becoming as issuing from an equity judge. Thank God, that judges like this do not make as well as administer the laws.

Some of our contemporaries appear to have found out all of a sudden that Church of England livings are sold in open market to the highest bidder, and that any one who bids the highest price may have them. Our contemporary of the *Daily Telegraph* is

virtuously aghast at the intelligence. Coming as it does upon such an incorrupt mind, we can well understand our contemporary's feeling. This feeling was evoked by the following facts, narrated in their order:—

On Tuesday afternoon a good many clergymen, speculators, and others, were attracted to the Auction-mart in Tokenhouse-yard by an announcement that several of the ecclesiastical benefices which are in the gift of the Duke of Norfolk would be publicly sold by Messrs. Farebrother and Clark, of Lancaster-place. The “conditions” stated that the sales were made under a power of sale and exchange contained in a family settlement of the Duke of Norfolk's estates, dated the 31st of May, 1839. The settled estates were formerly subject to several mortgage charges, all of which, so far as the advowsons were affected, were, by indenture, dated the 10th day of February, 1859, released or otherwise discharged. The advowsons, with one exception, were mentioned in the settlement of 1839, but it could be shown that the presentations had been made by the dukes for the time being or persons claiming under them. Inasmuch as some of the dukes had been Roman Catholics, the presentations had been at times made by other persons. One of the advowsons was not the property of the Norfolk family until 1794, when it was purchased from Sir John Honeywood and his trustees by Charles Duke of Norfolk. A gentleman in the room inquired what it was that was about to be sold, as there seemed to be a good deal of difficulty concerning Church property—it might be confiscated altogether in a short time. The auctioneer said he was about to sell the fee of certain advowsons, and he did not believe that the Legislature of a great nation would ever confiscate the property of the Church of England. Whatever might occur, the rights of parties would certainly be reserved. This assurance did not seem to convince the persons present, who shook their heads doubtfully. The first lot submitted was the advowson and right of perpetual presentation to the rectory of Handsworth, four miles and a half from Sheffield, in a highly picturesque part of the country, subject to the life of the incumbent, who was baptized on the 25th of December, 1801. The estimated value of the living is 892*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, less outgoings, which amounted to 3*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* The auctioneer said he supposed the living was worth 8,000 or 9,000 guineas. There was no bidding, however, of any kind, and the lot was withdrawn. The next lot was the advowson and next presentation to the vicarage of Ecclesfield, five miles from Sheffield. The church, the auctioneer said, was one of the most beautiful he had ever seen. The living was worth 813*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, the outgoings being 51*l.* 14*s.*; the present incumbent born on the 18th of April, 1813. The vicarage of Ecclesfield has the right of appointing to the perpetual curacy of the chapel of Bradfield, of the annual value of about 200*l.*; age of present curate, sixty-six. A gentleman present offered 2,500*l.*, upon which the auctioneer said he would take the bidding, but it was not at all likely that it would be accepted. The question of confiscation was again raised, and a gentleman inquired who would bear the loss if the property were attached. The auctioneer said of course the owner would have to bear it. Some biddings followed, the last of which was 3,550*l.*, but it was announced that the living was not sold. The next was the advowson and next presentation to the rectory of Brimsingham, Norfolk, with rectory house, built in 1842, subject to the life of the incumbent, who was baptized on the 12th of February, 1817. The estimated annual income is 723*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, subject to outgoings of 29*l.* a year. There was no bidding for this lot. The auctioneer said it must not be supposed because these livings were withdrawn, that there were no offers for them—indeed, they had been inundated with letters proposing to deal for them by private contract, but the Duke of Norfolk would come of age on the 27th inst., and the trustees thought it would be desirable to submit them to public competition. The next lot was the advowson and next presentation to the vicarage of St. Margaret's, Ilkeshall, near Bungay, worth 304*l.* 10*s.* a year, subject to the life of the incumbent, who was baptized on the 24th of August, 1820. A gentleman present said, “I will give you 100*l.* for it.” (Laughter.) There was no other bidding, and the lot was withdrawn. The next and last lot was the advowson and next presentation to the vicarage of Steyning, five miles north of Shoreham. It was stated that the estimated income was 565*l.* a year. The first bidding was 2,500*l.*, which was gradually increased to 3,610*l.*, at which it was knocked down, this being the only benefice which was sold out of the five offered.

After all, what does this amount to? It simply amounts to a proof of ordinary middle-class ignorance—nothing more. We doubt ourselves whether Mr. Gladstone's scheme has anything to do with the prices of these precious advowsons. We should rather say that money was scarce or Church property at a discount.

#### THE REV. CHRISTOPHER NEVILLE AND THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.

The following letter, addressed to the Secretary of the Liberation Society, has been handed to us for publication:—

Dear Sir,—The correspondence between Mr. Morley and the Liberation Society has interested me very much, because it touches upon a point which has very much occupied my thoughts during the last five or six years. It would be impertinent in me to give any opinion upon this correspondence, but it may not be uninteresting to you to know the train of thought which has induced me to give my cordial support to your Society. Without the acquaintance of a single Dissenter or reading any Dissenting publication, I worked out for myself your two first principles, that no Christian Church should remain under the control of a State which is not exclusively Christian, and that in the interests of truth, there ought to be established the most absolute equality between one man and another, as to his religious convictions, perfectly free from either



premium on the one side, or disadvantage on the other. What seemed to me to be put forward as a third principle of your Society, the secularisation of Church property, prevented me from joining you. Regarding the property as having been long devoted to the service of God in an especial manner, I could not pursue as an "object" the appropriating it to secular uses. I believe with Mr. Morley, that this has been the greatest ground of opposition to your Society. In my humble judgment, the disposition of this property is a practical detail in carrying out your two great principles, and I regret that it was put forward as an "object." I have still the strongest objection to the secularisation of this property, but I am most reluctantly compelled to confess that I cannot see any mode of carrying out the two first great principles, which does not involve the applying Church Endowments to secular uses. I have attended six annual meetings of the Liberation Society, and I have never heard one single hostile expression against the Episcopal Church, as a Church. If we really believe that the present alliance between Church and State is in opposition to New Testament teaching, and if this alliance depends solely on the laws of the land, we are responsible for these laws, and are bound in conscience to try to alter them by all peaceable means. There is a time for everything, and the settling the Irish Church question will furnish quite sufficient employment for Mr. Gladstone and his allies, without raising future questions.

With these sentiments, your Society has my very best wishes, and will have all the assistance which my humble powers enable me to offer you.

Yours truly,

CHRISTOPHER NEVILLE.

Thorney, Newark, Dec. 19, 1868.

### PROTESTANT DENOMINATIONS IN IRELAND.

(From our Dublin Correspondent.)

DUBLIN, Monday.

Perhaps a few facts within my personal knowledge may throw considerable light on the controversy between Mr. Dodson, Mr. Goring, and an old acquaintance of mine, the Rev. A. T. Lee, to which you referred last week.

Under the heading "Presbyterians," in the census forms of 1861, are included Presbyterians of the General Assembly, Unitarians—which two bodies receive the *Regium Donum*, and these only—United Presbyterians, Covenanters, and some smaller Seceders. The latter denominations get no Government grants; the United Presbyterians would take none, they are of the purest voluntaries in creed. All these various bodies of State-aided and voluntary Presbyterians are included together in the 523,291 "Presbyterians" returned in the census forms of 1861. It was agreed by all these bodies, prior to the month of March, 1861, that the one generic term, "Presbyterians," would meet all their peculiarities, and that they would all return themselves under it.

Mr. Goring, and indeed Mr. Dodson also, seems to be unaware that in 1834 the division amongst the Irish Presbyterians on the doctrine of the Trinity was just at its height, when the late Dr. Cooke and the late Dr. Montgomery were in the heat of controversy on the subject, when the Synod of Ulster, which till then embraced all Irish Presbyterians, had broken up, and if ever the Unitarians and other Presbyterian seceders would return themselves as of "other Protestant Dissenters," it was in 1834. But they did not. And in 1861 the term "Presbyterians" includes under it the Voluntary Presbyterians, as well as the State-aided Presbyterians. Few, if any, of any class of Presbyterians are embraced under the title "other Protestant Dissenters" in the 1861 census returns, as alleged by Mr. Goring. The whole of the various Presbyterian bodies are included under the one generic term "Presbyterians." The Rev. A. T. Lee knows this just as well as I do; and, if in controversy with me on the subject, I am certain he would not attempt to dispute it. Mr. Dodson is quite correct in saying, "I find no warrant for this allegation in the report of the Census Commissioners." I can contradict Mr. Goring's allegation correctly and emphatically from personal knowledge, which could not be embraced in any Commissioners' report.

Now, as to the 45,399 "Methodists" in the Commissioners' report, I can state a few facts also. At first it was proposed by the Commissioners, and approved of by some leading Wesleyan Methodist ministers, to have in the census forms the heading, "Wesleyans." This having come to my knowledge privately, I at once wrote to the editor of the *Irish Evangelist*, the Wesleyan organ, and objected to any such distinctive appellation "Wesleyans," and contended that the forms should be altered to the generic term "Methodists"; just as the generic term "Presbyterians." The editor, the Rev. Dr. Cooke, supported my views, and much against the wish of a few of the Dr. Bunting school in the Wesleyan ministry in Ireland, we got the term "Methodists" inserted. Amongst the 45,399 "Methodists" in the census returns are Wesleyans, Methodist New Connexion, Primitive Methodist (English), United

Methodist Free Church; just as there are the various Presbyterians in the other class. It was the first time that ever any "Methodists" here returned themselves as a distinct Church, and I am within the mark when I state that not more than two-thirds of the Irish Wesleyans returned themselves as "Methodists." Even in the face of every argument brought to bear upon them publicly in the press, and privately, a large number of them, fully one-third, returned themselves in 1861 as still of the "Established Church"; aye, even Wesleyan class-leaders and their families who never darkened the door of a State-Church. If you had had a religious census in England in 1861, you would have had thousands of Wesleyan—milk-and-waterish—Dissenters doing the same as they did in Ireland.

Then, again, there is a distinct Methodist denomination in Ireland—the Primitive Wesleyan Methodists—who profess never to have left "the Church." These are as pure voluntaries as the United Presbyterians, Baptists, or Congregationalists. They have a purely Presbyterian form of Church government. Their district meetings and conference are formed like those of the Methodist New Connexion and Bible Christians—having one layman for each minister present; and, like the Bible Christians, they decline to style their preachers "Rev.," not from any principle, but because they consider "an ordained minister from Trinity College is alone entitled to 'Rev.,'" as they express it. Now these "Methodists" are the life and soul and backbone of all the State-Church congregations in Ireland. These are the men who have really kept Ritualism and Puseyism out of the State-Church in Ireland. For the purposes of Mr. Dodson's argument these have as much right to be calculated amongst the "Voluntaries" as any others. They have their chapels, schoolrooms, and preachers' residences scattered all over Ireland, and they do not owe, at the present day, 1,000*l.* of debt on all these hundreds of buildings—on all of them mark. This cannot be said by any other religious community. All these chapels, schools, and preachers' residences have been built since 1818 or 1820, when this body first took a separate existence and had to build their own chapels, when the Wesleyans commenced to administer the sacraments, to which practice the Primitive Wesleyans then objected, and still persist in their objection. All their chapels, and every organisation of their denominations, are maintained by the purest Voluntarism; for they never yet "let" a pew in any of their chapels, nor received a farthing except as a free-will offering. I hold, therefore, that here is the very strictest sect of voluntaries in Ireland entirely excluded from consideration in the mere figures of the census forms, and if you deduct these from the State Church numbers, and once take them out of "the Church," you will leave it much weaker in Ireland than it even now appears, and the most zealous and religious party in the State Church will be taken from it. If it be once disestablished and disendowed, and thus brought to a common level with all other churches, the Primitive Wesleyans will assuredly unite with the other Methodist bodies—this has been already under consideration—and no longer keep up a separate organisation as "an auxiliary to the State Church," which they say was John Wesley's primitive plan, for with no State Church in existence "an auxiliary" to it would be too good a joke.

Having stated these matters of fact, known well to who are intimately acquainted with the religious denominations over Ireland, how do the Voluntaries really stand, taking the census tables of 1861 and correcting their analysis in the light of these facts?

Methodists	45,399
Methodists who adhered to their old system of returning themselves, say one-third more	15,133
Methodists (Primitive Wesleyan)	25,000
Presbyterians who are Voluntaries, say	23,291
Independents	4,532
Baptists	4,237
Quakers	3,695
Other persuasions	14,695
Unascertained, 4,103—omitted	—

Total Irish Protestant Voluntaries in 1861 .. 135,982

Roman Catholics, numbering 4,505,265, have to be really added to these in any test of the application of Voluntarism as sufficient to sustain the Church of Christ.

But for all practical purposes the paltry *Regium Donum* to the General Assembly of Presbyterians and Unitarians scarcely in anywise interferes with Mr. Dodson's arguments, if he were even to include these two bodies, say 500,000, in his calculations. The Presbyterians will be certain to succeed better without any paltry 70*l.* a year per congregation, from the royal gift.

Besides all this, and beyond all the arguments which mere figures present, there are facts and principles which no figures nor tables can ever disclose. Would Mr. Goring—or better still, the Rev. A. T. Lee—tell us how many of the nominal 693,357 of the State-Church adherents in Ireland belong to it, not from principle, but merely because it is the State Church, and in their eyes "more respectable"? How many Presbyterian families have been drawn off to the State Church when they became comfortable in life, simply because "the young ladies" thought "the Church" was more "respectable" than the "Meeting House"? How many young men at the bar, in the Civil Service, and in other positions, left Presbyterianism, Wesleyanism, and other Nonconformist churches, simply because they knew that "if they were to get on," as they phrased it, they must belong to the "respectable" State Church

"the Church of the Queen and Constitution"? Even leaving the money support out of the question, ignoring the State grants and State aid entirely, yet Dissent has had to compete in Ireland with an Establishment having all public offices, all promotion, all places, pensions, "respectability" at its command, and consequently has had great odds against it; and yet Dissenters, in the face of all this, have increased more rapidly than this vaunted, vain, puffed-up, pampered and petted State Establishment. I place these facts and views before your readers, and for future use by Mr. Dodson and the Rev. A. T. Lee.

Of this I am perfectly satisfied, that if the census returns simply disclosed the religious belief of the various Protestants in Ireland, free from all influences and interferences which went to make up the returns of 1861, and if every one was set down truly as of State-Church or Nonconformity, without any interested motives to actuate him, or tyranny to coerce him, the returns thus faithfully prepared would show the State-Church and Nonconformists standing nearly thus in Ireland:—

Established Church in Ireland	500,000
Endowed Presbyterians	500,000
Nonconformists, supported voluntarily	293,702
Roman Catholics, supported voluntarily	4,505,265

Total population of Ireland .. 5,798,957

Ten years of disestablishment and disendowment will test the Episcopal Church and its competitors in Ireland, and the result will be a complete change of places in respect to numbers. Already the elevation of Mr. Justice O'Hagan to the office of Lord Chancellor is being used by the Presbyterian organs in Ireland to urge Presbyterian young men at or going to the bar to remain true, as Presbyterianism as religious faith is no longer a barrier to promotion. This is one of the "straws" indicating how "the wind blows." Circumstances like this have more effect on the State-Church and its numbers than any mere matter of endowment of its ministers.

### THE DISESTABLISHMENT AND DISENDOWMENT OF THE IRISH CHURCH.

The *Times* has been publishing a series of leading articles on this subject with a view to show the nature of the work required to be done, and the methods by which it may be accomplished.

In the first of these articles the leading journal holds that whatever is done towards fixing the mode of government of the future Church, the method of promotion to office within it, the maintenance of its order or doctrine, must be shaped according to the wishes of Irish Protestants. Disendowment must, by the nature of the case, be accompanied by a partial reservation of ecclesiastical property. The separation of the portion to be reserved from the bulk to be appropriated will not occasion any great difficulty, though it is a task not to be despised. The ultimate destination of the bulk to be appropriated is an after-labour, which need not be considered until the produce in hand requires its settlement, or, at least, until the first part of the transaction is completed; and the Administration will consult its own honour and the good government of the empire by refusing to deal with the second branch of the question while the first is pending. The real difficulty, the solution of which cannot be delayed, lies in the settlement of the trusts of that portion of the ecclesiastical property reserved for the use of the Disestablished Church. Those trusts must be defined, not by reference to any conception of any individual statesman or statesmen of what may be the order of the Primitive Church, or of an ideal Church, or of a missionary Church, or of a Free Church, but with relation solely and conclusively to the wishes of the Churchmen of Ireland.

But who are the Churchmen of Ireland, and how are their wishes to be ascertained? This is the subject of a second article. Who are the Churchmen of England? Speaking broadly, it may be declared that it is the peculiar distinction, if not the peculiar glory, of the English Church that any Englishman is a member of it who claims the privileges of membership. It is essentially a popular institution. The outermost layman is as much a member as an archbishop. The infrequent worshipper can no more be denied his privileges than the daily celebrant. This dispassionate statement of the real nature of the English Establishment explains the facts, otherwise apparently anomalous, that Parliament defines its doctrine, and that the Queen, on the advice of the Prime Minister, nominates its bishops. The *Times*, then, finds that the Irish Churchmen whose wishes must govern the destination of the reserved funds of the Irish Church are the Irishmen who claim to be Churchmen—in other words, the 700,000 who declared themselves such in the Census of 1861. How are their wishes to be ascertained? Mr. Bright's suggestion of a general assembly at Dublin is discarded as impracticable. If such a convocation were to be fairly elected, it would be unable to grapple with the task before it? Infinite discussion, repeated adjournments, would follow and the work would never be completed. The suggestion must be dismissed, with some reluctance, perhaps, because it offered to relieve us from trouble, but still it must be dismissed. The Imperial Government and the United Parliament must undertake the labour themselves with such light as to the wishes of Irish Churchmen as they possess. Need the labour, however, be oppressive?

With few and insignificant exceptions, English Churchmen, and presumably Irish Churchmen, are content with the comprehensive definition of doctrine they have inherited. They desire to abridge no man's freedom



within the existing law. In the same way they are satisfied with the liturgies hallowed by continuous use. It would be sufficient, therefore, if this view of Irish opinion be just, to vest the reserved ecclesiastical property of Ireland in Commissioners "for the common worship of the congregations attending the Episcopal Churches according to the liturgies prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer of the English Church, and for the edification of such congregations in the doctrines defined by the articles and formularies of the English Church." If in after times events should arise to inspire Irish Churchmen with a desire for change—if they should think the old truths insufficient or incomplete, they would have but to ask and obtain their freedom; but the duty of the English Legislature at this juncture is to consult Irish opinion as it exists, and not to shrink from defining the doctrines and worship of the Disestablished Church of Ireland by reference to the Established Church of England, if such be the desire of Irish Churchmen.

In a further article the *Times* defines disestablishment to mean, at all events, the abolition of the right of Irish bishops to sit by rotation in the House of Lords; the reduction of the status of the Irish clergy to that of Roman Catholic or Presbyterian ministers of religion; the formal repudiation of the claim of authority, already, indeed, long since obsolete, of Protestant incumbents over all the inhabitants within the areas especially assigned to them; the suppression of the Courts of Law set apart for the exclusive hearing of ecclesiastical causes. Like the colonial churches the Irish Church could be disestablished, and yet retain its existing standard of doctrine and practice without any prospect of a reign of licence.

The guarantees of order, of orthodoxy, and of sound conduct would remain as firm as they are at present, although they would be enforced in a different shape. The administration of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Ireland would become subject to the Courts of Equity just as the administration of all the voluntary religious bodies of England possessing any property, however slight, has always been controlled by the Lord Chancellor. The present Master of the Rolls was required two or three years since to interpret the doctrine and expound the form of ecclesiastical government of a Huguenot congregation in the City of London. The peculiar tenets of Particular Baptists, and the relative powers of deacons, ministers, and the faithful at large, have been repeatedly before the Vice-Chancellors. The Swedenborgians have appealed to the Courts of Equity to intervene among them. It is not long since it was found necessary to examine the creed of the followers of Joanna Southcote for the purpose of administering a fund dedicated to its propagation. Wherever, in fact, funds are set apart upon trusts recognised by the law, the Court of Chancery is the tribunal which protects their use according to the destination originally given them, and is ready to interfere whenever called upon to restrain their abuse in other directions. This is so well understood that M. de Montalembert has expressed the willingness of himself and of the Catholics who sympathise with him to relinquish altogether the subventions received from the State in France for religious worship, if the English liberty of founding trusts for the purposes they have at heart were conceded to them in exchange. The main difference between the present system and that which would take its place is that the new method of procedure would be less cumbrous. If a member of the English Church is aggrieved by what he conceives to be false doctrine or condemns as an unauthorised form of worship, he resorts to the Ecclesiastical Court, and, after infinite pleadings and cross-pleadings, the question may be brought to an issue. Under the circumstances of a disestablished Church the same member would file a bill in Equity praying for an injunction to restrain the teaching of the doctrine or the continuance of the practices be repudiated. Those who share the opinion of the Bishop of St. David's that it is not desirable to simplify the prosecution or repression of heresy or of a diversity of practice, may, indeed, fear that the remedy might be too speedy under disestablishment, but we have sufficient confidence that the Judges in Equity would be slow to lend their aid to frivolous complaints, and would altogether refuse to abridge the liberty of interpretation already allowed.

Another question is, in what way the future officers of the Church should be appointed. The majority of Irish livings are in the gift of the bishops, and this arrangement would be continued and might be extended; but how shall the bishops themselves be nominated? At present Irish bishops are selected by the Crown, without the formality of a *comité d'élire* observed in England, and no doubt the overwhelming majority of Irish Churchmen would, were it possible, prefer to maintain the existing system of nomination by the responsible advisers of the Crown, but the retention of the power to nominate bishops by the Prime Minister would be a gratuitous act, lying beyond the scope of his ordinary functions.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies did, indeed, for many years undertake the appointment of the bishops of the unestablished Colonial Churches, and, although Lord Carnarvon declined the responsibility, it does not yet appear that Colonial Secretaries are agreed in their renunciation of the trust. With respect, however, to the Irish Church, we have as yet heard of no alternative method likely to commend itself to Irish Churchmen. There are precedents to be studied in the history of the Episcopal Churches of Scotland and of the United States, but they do not attract approval. We must leave the Ministry to solve the difficulty, bearing in mind, however, that, though they will be perfectly justified in asking to be released from a delicate duty, they are bound to bring forward some plan agreeable to the sense of Irish Churchmen. The fact that the Crown has always undertaken the nomination of bishops would indeed be a reason for requiring that the Ministers of the Crown should continue to undertake the task even when the Church is disestablished, in the absence of a alternative proposal commanding approval.

The *Saturday Review*, referring to the proposal to apply the Irish Church revenues assumed by the State to the poor, says either the money would be used to give more relief than was strictly necessary, and so would encourage pauperism, and do more

harm to Ireland than if it were thrown into the sea, or the owners of property would be proportionately relieved from poor-rates, and it would practically form a contribution to their yearly incomes. Thus, to give the money of the Irish Church to the poor in such a way as not to do harm, comes very nearly to the same thing as if it simply ceased to be paid, and the owners of property openly and avowedly took it. But although it would practically come to the same thing in a mere pecuniary point of view, it might not come at all to the same thing so far as the Irish Church of the future was concerned. Seven-eighths of the land is said to belong to Protestant owners, and if a distinct sum were directly placed in the hands of a Protestant owner, which he was previously obliged legally to use in keeping up the nearest church of his own persuasion, the obligation to pay this sum hereafter, when the legal obligation ceased, would come home much more strongly to his conscience than if he only found the amount of his poor-rates lessened and more available money in his pocket. Other plans may be better for Ireland, and it is Ireland that ought to be primarily considered; but for the Irish Church no plan would be so advantageous as simply to enact that after a certain date payments on account of tithes should cease. As to disestablishment, all discussion will end in this, that Parliament must either name a commission, or must settle how a commission shall be named, which shall decide how the affairs of the Irish Church are for the future to be regulated. There is only one more thing which Parliament may feel itself called on to decide, and that is whether the choice of the Irish Church, speaking through this commission, is to be quite free—for instance, whether bishops should still be appointed by the Crown.

The *Spectator* argues that it would be wisest, as well as boldest, on the part of Mr. Gladstone to decide as to the appropriation of the revenues to be taken away when the disendowment scheme should be announced. The Government are strong enough to do it, and will derive moral strength from their decision. Our contemporary approves of the scheme of a Commission suggested by the *Times* as a temporary measure, but the Church must be invested with the power of dealing freely with the funds as regards their redistribution. It will need and will undoubtedly demand freedom to decide on its best future organisation, on the most economical way of using the endowments which remain to it, and the wisest way of raising and distributing new ones. For this purpose, the disestablished Church must have a provisional organisation assigned it by the State,—one which it may have power to alter for itself if it pleases,—but at least a fair starting-point for its new career.

We can think of no better precedent than that offered by the reorganisation of the Episcopal Church of America after the Revolution. The first reorganisation in that case was, we believe, founded on this principle, that the churches then existing elected an equal number of lay and clerical deputies to a general assembly—the laity electing the lay deputies, and the clergy the clerical—in which the laity and clergy deliberated in common, but voted separately, the vote of either laity or clergy being enough to defeat any proposal. After the Church was furnished with bishops, which at first it was not, the bishops sat together in an upper house, as we suppose the Irish bishops would claim their right to do. But the general assembly is the essential point, and there can be no real difficulty in getting one elected on some such principle as this—the clergymen and laymen of every county in Ireland to elect two deputies each (or, perhaps, three, with only two votes each, for it would not be a bad thing to exercise them in constitutional principles by trying the minority principle on them)—to a general assembly in which the laity and clergy should deliberate together, but vote separately. Such an assembly would have in the first instance to deliberate on the best measures for the first start of the Church and the apportionment of the revenues; and, failing new directions from it, the Commissioners could only apply the funds vested in them to the old uses. But to give no power of changing the uses at a moment of such critical importance to the Church, would be like tying the Church hand and foot just when you are casting it out of doors.

As to the course to be pursued towards the present incumbents, the *Spectator* thinks that the pulse of the Church should be felt—

If it be, as Mr. Lowe asserts, that the Church would greatly prefer total and immediate disestablishment in order to avail itself of the enthusiasm of the moment for a new effort, then, of course, it would be in the highest degree wise for both Catholic and Protestant interests to complete at once the work to be commenced, to substitute lower life-annuities without the obligation of work, for livings with the work, and leave the clergymen free to re-enlist as clergy of a free Church if they please. But if it were otherwise—if, as we are rather inclined to believe—the clergy would regard this abrupt dismissal as a new grievance, and as tending to disorganise still further a Church in great danger of complete disorganisation, then it is obvious to us that no purpose can be answered by so arbitrary a step at all proportionate to the annoyance and resistance it might create. The Catholics will be amply satisfied by the final notice of a disestablishment that must be concluded within the lifetime of men now living, and beyond this question of justice we owe, as Mr. Gladstone has so often and so justly stated, every consideration to the feelings of the Church which is to lose much of its dignity and much of its wealth. The relation of the State to the surviving clergy of the Irish Establishment, so long as they survive, is not really a question of principle. It is a question of moral expediency, and should be decided in the way most likely to remove the difficulties and facilitate the process of the great work in hand. If the Church, like a courageous patient, says to its surgeon, "Operate at once, if you must operate at all," so let it be. If not, let the operation be as gradual and as little exhausting to the nervous strength of the sufferer as it is consistent with political justice to make it.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* expresses doubt whether the proposals of the *Times* for reconstructing the Irish Church will be as satisfactory as those for removing the evils at present complained of.

Several of the proposals contained in the article appear to us obviously wise and right. For instance, whatever constitution may be provided for the Irish Church as it is to be, it seems to us clear that the continuity of its doctrine and discipline must be provided for by reference to those of the Church of England, and not by express definition. We are also fully sensible of the advantages of making the ordinary courts of law, or rather the Courts of Equity, the guardians of the discipline of the Church. The difficulty of getting the bishops and clergy, and any body of men which could possibly be regarded in the light of representatives of the laity, to agree upon a new constitution like that which exists in the Episcopal Church of Scotland or in the Episcopal Church of the United States, would certainly be very great, and might in practice turn out to be insuperable. The chief question which suggests itself to us upon the scheme is as to the light in which it will be viewed by the Irish Protestants. Will they like to accept the position of a colonial Church without any corresponding freedom of action? If they do, they will, it may be said, show their good sense, for they will practically recognise the fact that courts of law form a far better government for a Church than clerical meetings in the nature of synods; but such a flight of good sense would be, to say the very least, altogether unusual and exceptional. It seems to us by no means improbable that both laity and clergy will be disposed to say, The only compensation we can possibly receive for disendowment is freedom of action. Make us a real Church, and not an aggregate of corporations; let us have synods, bishops chosen by ourselves, and some sort of lay superintendence over the clergy. Let us, in short, to a considerable degree manage our own affairs, without forfeiting the management of that shred of property which we have always enjoyed, and which, except as a trophy, could be of no use to anyone else. We cannot on the present occasion fully discuss the various questions which would arise if such language as this were to be held by any considerable proportion of the Irish Protestants. We confine ourselves to saying that if they accept the solution suggested by the *Times*, no one else need complain. Be this how it may, it is an act of justice to say that the articles to which we have referred do put forward a definite proposal as to the way in which the difficulties of the case are to be dealt with. It is the first attempt to do so which we have met with.

The *Telegraph* repudiates the suggestions; first, that Parliament should define the doctrines and worship of the disestablished Church; secondly, that the Crown should nominate the bishops of that Church, as altogether inconsistent with the principle of disestablishment submitted to the country during the general election. The national voice has pronounced in favour of disestablishment—not a qualified establishment. Mr. Gladstone and his most earnest supporters have uniformly insisted that the severance of the existing connection with the State must be absolute, unconditional, and complete. The disestablished communion must be left to frame its own laws and choose its own way. How would it be possible to say that the union with the State had been dissolved, if the Crown were to appoint the bishops and the British Parliament to define the ritual and doctrine? There are many instances of Colonial Churches which, although entirely free from the shackles of the State, remain in full communion with the Church of England. Perhaps there can be no more instructive example than that of the Scottish Episcopalians. The Scottish Episcopal communion is not only non-established, but it was, by a formal Act, disestablished. It underwent precisely the same process as that now contemplated with reference to the Episcopalian Protestants of Ireland. If the Reformed doctrines and discipline have been successfully preserved in the one instance, why may they not be so in the other? The whole nation has been asked a distinct question—Whether the connection between State and Church in Ireland shall cease? The answer has been an emphatic "Yes"; and those who invoked it will not be parties to any half measure which will hamper the force of the affirmation.

The *Standard* pronounces the audacity of the scheme for "the dissolution and spoliation of the Irish branch of the United Church," which is now being developed in the columns of the *Times*, to be simply intolerable. The *Standard* was prepared for gross injustice—for a disposition to decide every doubtful point against the Church, and to treat her claims in the narrowest, most hostile, and most illiberal spirit—but it was not prepared to find that private benefactions were to be openly confiscated, that churches built entirely by Protestant funds were to be appropriated to the Papists, and that the glebe lands of Ulster, granted to the Reform Church more than half a century after the Reformation, and rendered valuable solely by Protestant energy and earnestness, were to be seized without a hint of compensation. It was prepared for endeavours to fetter and hamper the freedom of the disestablished Church, on one paltry pretence or another; but hardly expected a cool proposal to deprive her at once of all the privileges and prestige she derives from her connection with the State, and of all the liberties belonging to a voluntary communion; to exclude her bishops from Parliament, and yet insist on retaining the control of Parliament over her creed, her worship, and her administration. It would be better for the Church to give up every shred of her property, to quit her sacred buildings, and hand over to Popish purchasers, at a tithe of their value, the parsonages built, the glebes improved, the churches erected by Protestant labour and piety, than to submit to the degradation, disorganisation, and spiritual impotence which Mr. Gladstone seeks to impose upon her.

THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN'S HEALTH.—It is denied that Dr. Jackson's health is in an unsatisfactory



state, or that he has declined to accept the see of London.

**THE QUEEN'S RELIGIOUS VIEWS.**—The London correspondent of the *Bury and Norwich Post* takes upon himself to assert that "Her Majesty has no sympathy with the High Church nor with the Low Church; her opinions are now, as they were when she published the selections from Zschokke, extremely Broad Church. Her type is Dean Stanley, and I believe it is perfectly true that she asked Mr. Disraeli if it would not be possible to make the Dean Archbishop of Canterbury."

**IPSWICH.**—On Tuesday evening a lecture on "The Union between Church and State, considered in the Light of Scripture," was delivered in the Lecture-hall, Tower-street, by the Rev. G. B. Johnson, of Edgebaston, in connection with the Ipswich branch of the Liberation Society. Mr. E. Grimwade took the chair. There was but a small attendance, the evening being wet. The lecture was very well received, and at the close a vote of thanks to Mr. Johnson was unanimously adopted.

**RITUALISM IN LAMBETH.**—In consequence of the course pursued by Dr. F. G. Lee, the vicar of All Saints, Lambeth, more especially in connection with the "Hymn to the Virgin," recently sung in his church, Archdeacon Utterson, acting as commissary for the Bishop of Winchester, declined to license the clergyman acting as his curate. Dr. Lee now advertises for another gentleman to assist him, and in the event of the necessary license being again refused, he will, we understand, appeal to the archbishop. —*South London Press.*

**THE APPROACHING "ECUMENICAL COUNCIL."**—The *Tablet* says, in connection with the approaching Ecumenical Council, "It is interesting to know that the number of prelates composing the hierarchy, according to the *Annuario Pontificio* for this year, is 982. There are actual vacancies in 112 sees. Belonging to the Oriental Rite there are 76 sees; and of sees in *partibus infidelium* there are 229. In all there are in the Catholic Church 12 patriarchates, 177 archbishops, and 905 bishops—total, 1,094. But there are vacant 1 patriarchate, 9 archbishoprics, and 102 bishoprics. The number of sees and vicariates in the British dominions is 110. Great Britain alone, therefore, will represent above one-tenth of the prelates who will have a right to sit and judge in the Ecumenical Council."

**TRIED AND FOUND WANTING.**—A remarkable pamphlet recently issued proceeds from the Rev. Edmund S. Foulkes, who followed his friend Dr. Manning into the Roman Catholic Church, with other Oxford men, many years ago. He now addresses a letter to the archbishop, in which he gives the result of his observation and study since joining the Roman communion, and criticises freely the Roman position. He says that people who have become Roman Catholics in England of late years had deteriorated as a body, and have notoriously descended to a lower level of Christianity. He infers from this that sacramental grace is equally derivable from the same ordinances in both communions. His perfect ideal of a Christian family is still an English parsonage and its surroundings. He describes the apathy he found in Spain, and alludes plainly to the immorality of the priesthood there. He says he feels he could die equally well in the one Church or the other, and that as he was ordained "priest" in the Church of England, he believes himself to be a priest still. He would have no profession of faith required from any seeking to be admitted to communion in any Church but the Nicene Creed.

**THE CORONATION OATH AND THE IRISH CHURCH.**—I confess I find it difficult to enter into the train of thought which would make the Coronation Oath a perpetual bar to the action of the legislature on all fundamental questions. If every person in the United Kingdom, the Queen herself included, should come to the conclusion that the dictates of justice and the safety of the empire demand the disestablishment of the Irish Church, still, according to Lord Derby, the remedy must not be applied during the reigning sovereign's life, though the consequence should be civil war. We are really to suppose that the Coronation Oath is intended to act, not as a check on the royal prerogative, but as a limitation on the free action of Parliament during each successive reign? The two Houses of Parliament are so mistrustful of their own legislative capacity that at the commencement of each reign they bind the Sovereign by a solemn oath to refuse the Royal assent to some measure of their own, which they may perchance consider essential not to the stability only, but even to the life, of the nation! Surely an argument which involves a series of extravagant absurdities refutes itself. The English Parliament has, in the course of ages, gradually surrounded itself with a bulwark of privileges against the encroachments of the Crown; and as each Sovereign ascends the throne of his predecessor he promises the nation, by a solemn oath, that he will rule as a constitutional Sovereign—that is, by the advice of his Parliament. But Lord Derby's doctrine is that the Coronation Oath binds the Sovereign to govern as an absolute despot—to reject the advice of Parliament, and, it may be, even his own sense of what is wise and right! If this be the true view of our constitution, it is remarkable that it should have hitherto escaped the observation of all the great men who have devoted their learning and talents to its elucidation. —*Is there not a Cause?* by the Rev. Malcolm MacColl.

**SALE OF ADVOWNS.**—Advowsons have suddenly become a drug in the market. The exertions on behalf of "Our dear old Church of England" which have been at once unparalleled and carried almost beyond the verge of decency, to say nothing of fair play, appear to have produced an unexpected effect on the public mind. So much has been said

about the church being in danger, that many persons have ended by accepting as a fact what was never anything more than an unscrupulous election cry. Hence, when several valuable Church livings were put up for sale by auction last Tuesday, grave doubts were expressed as to the prudence of investing money in such property as advowsons. We read in the report of a contemporary that the auctioneer was called upon to vouch for the stability of the Church Establishment. His answer was emphatic, but did not inspire confidence. Not a single bid could be got for the first lot, which he valued at from eight to nine thousand guineas. It was a rectory situated four miles from Sheffield, where the house adjoined the church, where the view was extensive and the scenery picturesque, while a railway-station was at convenient distance, and there was little fear that the incumbent would live very long, as he was baptized on the 25th of December, 1801. In the second lot was included a church which had the recommendation of being the most beautiful the auctioneer had ever seen. This consideration and others tempted one gentleman to bid 2,500*l.*, which, however, was taken under protest. Again the company muttered the word confiscation, and were with difficulty reassured. Out of the five livings offered for sale there was only one which changed hands. Some persons might rejoice were the result due to a disinclination to traffic in Church livings. But the actual reasons which prevailed cannot make any other than a sad impression on all sensible readers. That the rabid talk of some excited clergymen should have produced a certain effect during the elections is not wonderful. Some of those whom they addressed were so panic-stricken as to be incapable of examining statements with minuteness, or weighing arguments with care. The circumstances of which we have just given an account indicate that many have not yet recovered their wits, or have in sober earnestness embraced these ridiculously unfounded notions; first, that the case of the Church in Ireland is identical with the Church in England; and second, that when legislating with regard to ecclesiastical property, Parliament will refuse to do justice to vested interests. —*Daily News.*

**FATHER IGNATIUS ON LOW CHURCH CHRISTIANITY.**—On Friday evening a lecture was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Lyne, better known as Father Ignatius, in the Store-street Hall, Bedford-square, on "The Christianity of the Low Church Party." The hall, which would probably seat 500 persons, was not quite two-thirds full. More than half of those present were ladies, and some four or five clergymen of the Church of England were to be seen here and there. No chairman was appointed. Father Ignatius was dressed in the loose coarse habit of a monk, with cowl, which he wore thrown back off his head, the knotted cord around his waist and hanging down at one side, a rosary and cross at the other. He commenced by requesting that all present would join in singing "the 804th hymn in the St. Alban's Hymn Book," beginning, "O Lord, how joyful 'tis to see." The hymn having been sung, he then said the well-known prayer for peace and unity to the Church, another for the spirit of love and charity, and finally the Lord's Prayer, after which he proceeded to his lecture. He said the matter for consideration was, "The Christianity of the Low Church Party." These words were not his own, they were composed of two popular expressions. They often heard in their own Church of a school of thought described as "a party." If there were any of his Low Church friends present, they would hear him speak of them in a manner perhaps the very opposite of what they supposed likely. What he wished to do was, to look at his Low Church brethren as they stood in the midst of God's heart and God's love, and then to ask those who were said to belong to the High Church, or Ritualistic, party whether, with respect to the chief essential doctrines of Christianity, they differed on a single point from their Low Church brethren. He then proceeded to show that not only the Low Church and High Church parties in the Church of England, but also the great body of Dissenters and Roman Catholics also, agreed in all the essential doctrines of Christianity, for they all held in common a belief in the Unity and Trinity of God, in the efficacy of the one great Atonement, and they equally accepted the Canonical books of Scripture as inspired. Why, then, should he censure his Low Church brethren because on some non-essential points they might not go as far as himself? And, on the other hand, why should they condemn him because he might go beyond them in some matters of belief and practice which he held to be in perfect accordance with the inspired word of God? This was a free-thinking age, and he was himself a free-thinker outside the Scriptures and the creeds of the Church. He was not a free-thinker as to "the truth once delivered to the saints"; but as to those points about which Christians were disputing among themselves he and those who agreed with him took it upon themselves to be very free-thinkers indeed. We all prayed daily, "Thy kingdom come." There were 900 millions of people in the world who did not believe in Christ; why then should Christians quarrel among themselves, instead of trying to gain recruits for their Master? The Low Church party had come down to Lombard-street to try to break his head. They would not do that any more, because he had been turned out of Lombard-street. The Low Church party were at enmity with the High, and the High Church party with the Low, though not in so muscular a manner. They bullied him because of his coat, because he was "a monk," but if they brought him a monk in their sense of the word he would say he was no child of his. The lecturer then

proceeded at much length and with considerable ability to show that almost all the objections taken to High Church belief and practices were founded on misapprehension. In defending the adoration of our Lord in the sacrament, and in a partial way the Roman Catholic doctrine of prayers to the saints, though he did not himself accept it in its full Roman Catholic meaning, he was called upon two or three times by some of the gentlemen present to give Scriptural proof of his position. There was, however, nothing like unseemly interruption or disorder of any kind. Mr. Lyne was listened to throughout with marked attention, and now and then was warmly applauded. At the conclusion the Rev. C. P. McCarthy, who avowed that he belonged to the Low Church party, challenged some of Mr. Lyne's views, especially as to prayers to the saints and the sacrifice of the Mass, and professed his readiness to meet the rev. gentleman at a fitting time and place to discuss them. He quite admitted, however, the kindly spirit in which Mr. Lyne had spoken, and proposed that a vote of thanks should be passed for the very able lecture which they had heard. The vote, however, was not put. Mr. McCarthy then offered up a prayer, a hymn was sung, and the audience quietly dispersed.

## Religious and Denominational News.

### A JUBILEE CELEBRATION AT BIRMINGHAM.

A public meeting in celebration of the jubilee of the opening of the Ebenezer Chapel, Steelhouse-lane, Birmingham, was held in the chapel on Wednesday evening, December 9th. The Rev. S. Pearson, M.A., pastor of the church, presided. After devotional services by Mr. G. Ingall and the Revs. F. W. Callaway and T. R. Parker, the chairman gave a brief statement of facts in connection with the history of the church. On the 4th of January, 1816, the first stone of that place of worship was laid. They had on the platform at that meeting perhaps the only surviving minister who was present at the laying of that foundation-stone—the Rev. John Hammond, of Handsworth. During fifty years of its history something like 70,000*l.* had been raised for Christian work and Christian worship in that locality. No less than 17,000*l.* had been sent by that congregation to the London Missionary Society. Thirty years ago day-schools were established, in which 200 boys received a primary education. When they looked upon the progress of education in the town they might say that they had been able to compare fairly with their Church friends. That congregation had been largely associated with Spring-hill College. Mrs. Glover, one of the members of that church, had left 20,000*l.* towards the endowment of this useful institution. Altogether no less than 130,000*l.* had been contributed by the church and congregation. That church had been conspicuous in times past for the Sunday-school work which it had carried on. Altogether 1,100 scholars were receiving religious education through the agencies of the church. They had now on the church rolls a larger number of members than they had ever had for the fifty years of their existence. At the end of the year they should have received 165 new members into fellowship since the commencement of 1866. He concluded by an impressive exhortation to the members of the church and congregation to continue in the work in which they were engaged. The Rev. Charles Vince and other gentlemen made admirable speeches.

The Rev. CHARLES VINCE addressed the meeting on "Birmingham now and fifty years ago." After reviewing some of the stirring political agitations of fifty years ago, Mr. Vince proceeded to consider the comparative state of the town in 1811 and 1868 in regard to the means for religious worship. In 1818, with a population of 60,000, Birmingham had five established churches—St. Martin's, St. Mary, St. Paul's, St. Bartholomew's, and Christ Church, providing accommodation for 7,630 people. There were 18 Dissenting places of worship of all denominations, which, at an average of 540 to each, would give additional accommodation for 9,720 more. Altogether, there was the means of public worship for about 29 per cent. of the population. In 1861, with a population of 232,000 people, there was only accommodation for 66,700 persons, in 25 buildings belonging to the Established Church and 67 structures belonging to Dissenting denominations. The religious zeal and liberality of the people had only just kept pace with the growth of the population. It was a matter for their gravest consideration that in 1868 there was a falling off from this proportion, and the religious accommodation did not now even suffice for 29 per cent. of the inhabitants. Since 1861, 118,000 immortal souls had been added to the population of the town, and to have kept pace in the proportion of 29 per cent. with this increase, no less than 34,000 additional sittings should have been provided. He urged the consideration of this momentous question of the provision of the means of Gospel ministry in the town, so as to meet its greatly increased wants, on the attention of all his hearers, and of Christians generally.

The Rev. R. W. DALE addressed the meeting on "Fifty Years Hence." The future, he observed, belonged to them more than the past, for it was in a great measure in their power to determine what the future should be. In looking at the great principles that were likely to guide the future of this country, he remarked that one thing which was gradually making its way in all parts of the country was the idea that it was a national crime that any English child should grow up uneducated. (Applause.) The nation had been compulsorily feeding poor children for a long time, and it was now going



to have compulsory education. He was sorry that some Nonconformists were setting themselves against such a scheme. He asked them not to be guilty of the enormous folly of standing in the way of a great tide of national feeling, which would soon deepen and intensify into passion, but rather to guide the current into safe channels; and he hoped that this great reform would be effectually carried out, and that fifty years hence there would not be a child in England that had not received a good and sound education. (Applause.) The nation was also beginning to be restless on the appalling growth of pauperism. The time had come when it was necessary to revise the present Poor Law. They had from two millions to two millions and a half of people in England and Wales receiving parish relief. He could not help thinking before fifty years elapsed those who were their statesmen would have to acknowledge that the "Condition of England" question was the supreme question for them, and that no men were fit to occupy high offices in the House who would not put aside all personal considerations and all party ambition, and set themselves resolutely and courageously to avert the misery and disgrace of having almost one-tenth of their people in such a state of wretchedness as to be perpetually coming on the parish for relief. After alluding to the importance of sanitary questions, and the treatment of our criminal classes, the speaker contended that a great change might be expected in the theological atmosphere. If theology had been changing, and would go on changing, Christ did not change, and the feeling of the Christian heart towards Christ would not change. He augured an early triumph for the principles of ecclesiastical equality with which they were identified. Fifty years hence they would begin to see at least the beginning of the end of Episcopal establishments. (Applause.) There would be still bishops, deans, rectors, and curates, and he hoped many as excellent men among them as they had now; but by that time the knell of State connection would be sounded, and the process of disestablishment would be rapidly moving towards its completion. Mr. Dale dwelt at length on their mission as members of a Christian Church, and sat down amid applause.

**SALTAIRE.**—In consequence of severe and lengthened illness, the Rev. H. M. Stallybrass has been obliged to resign the pastorate of the Congregational church at Saltaire, near Bradford.

**BANBURY.**—The Rev. George St. Clair preached his farewell sermons at the Baptist Chapel, Banbury, on Sunday, the 20th inst., and is now free to preach in vacant pulpits.

**WYKE.**—Mr. Archibald Craven, of Airedale College, Bradford, has accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation to become the pastor of the church and congregation worshipping in Westfield Chapel, Wyke, near Halifax.

**FINCHINGFIELD.**—The Rev. Joseph L. Collins, of Cheshunt College, and assistant minister to the Rev. John Raven, of Nicholas-street Chapel, Ipswich, has accepted the unanimous and cordial invitation of the church and congregation at Finchingfield to become their pastor.

**MUNIFICENT LIBERALITY.**—We observe from the *Missionary Record* of the United Presbyterian Church that Mrs. Archer, widow of the late Rev. Dr. Archer, of Oxenden Chapel, London, has transmitted to the Foreign Mission Board the sum of 1,500*l.* to found two scholarships of 30*l.* each per annum, in memory of her late husband. The scholarships are to be named after Dr. Archer, and their holders must be students destined for the missionary field.—*Weekly Review.*

**THE ST. JAMES'S HALL SERVICES.**—The trustees and elders of Surrey Chapel, while deploring the partial loss of their minister's service, have consented to the Rev. Newman Hall being relieved of the Sunday-evening services for six months, in order that he may be at liberty to devote himself to the special services at St. James's Hall. The rev. gentleman has publicly notified the same to the congregation both at Surrey Chapel and St. James's Hall, and the arrangement will commence with the new year.

**CRANBROOK.**—On Thursday the Rev. J. Birdseye was ordained to the pastorate of the Congregational church, Cranbrook, Kent. The introductory service was conducted by the Rev. J. A. Chamberlain, of Marden. A discourse on "Congregational Church Principles" was delivered by the Rev. J. R. Thomson, M.A., of Tunbridge Wells. The questions to the minister was proposed by the Rev. A. Turner, of Ashford. The ordination prayer was offered by the Rev. E. Bally, of Staplehurst, and the charge to the minister and people delivered by the Rev. J. Spence, D.D.

**LINDLEY, HUDDERSFIELD.**—Oakes Chapel, which is a substantial and beautiful edifice, has been erected for the use of the Baptist denomination at a cost of 5,500*l.* It is built of solid stone on freehold ground, in a simple but effective style,—a modification of classic architecture. It will seat about 800 persons; and its acoustic properties, and arrangements for securing light, warmth, and ventilation, are very creditable to the architect, Mr. George Woodhouse, Bolton. The opening services were commenced on Dec. 9th, when sermons were preached by the Rev. Samuel Burn, minister of the place; the Rev. J. Parker, Farsley; and the Rev. J. P. Chown, Bradford. These services were continued on the following Sunday, when the Rev. H. Dowson, President of Bury College, preached morning and evening, and the Rev. Robert Bruce, M.A., Huddersfield, in the afternoon. The collections on the opening day amounted to 240*l.*, and on the Sunday to 150*l.*

**HACKNEY.**—The resignation of the Rev. W. Kirkus, LL.B., of the pastorate of St. Thomas's-square Chapel,

Hackney, has already been recorded. In connection with the event, a meeting of the congregation was recently held in the schoolroom, when Mr. Kirkus spoke at considerable length on his connection with the chapel during the past sixteen years. After his address the following resolution, moved by Mr. W. M. Bullivant, and seconded by Mr. Thomas Archer, was carried unanimously: "That the members of the congregation of St. Thomas's-square Chapel, having heard the address of the Rev. W. Kirkus, on the occasion of his leaving them to take the pastorate of Long-sight Chapel, Manchester, beg to express the very deep and personal regret they feel at his departure from among them, and while profoundly sensible of the valuable and zealous and independent teaching they are about to lose and would gladly retain, earnestly desire for him, in his new sphere of ministration, the utmost personal and public success, and assure him and his family of their continued sympathy and regard." A further recognition of Mr. Kirkus's services is to be made, and in a more substantial form, before he leaves Hackney.

**THE RAGGED-SCHOOL MOVEMENT.**—An interesting gathering, in connection with the ragged-school movement, took place in St. James's Hall on Thursday night, when nearly 600 children, belonging to upwards of sixty ragged-schools in the metropolis, were provided with tea, cakes, and biscuits, and received presents at the hands of the Earl of Shaftesbury, under whose chairmanship the proceedings were conducted. The noble earl had the distinguished support of Prince Teck and the American Minister. The former, who is a patron and subscriber, told his hearers that the Princess Mary of Cambridge took a lively interest in ragged-schools: and the latter said that should the boys and girls present fail to meet with success in England, there was another country almost large enough to hold the world—he meant the United States, where, if they cultivated self-respect, adopted habits of industry, and obeyed the laws, prosperity was sure to await them. Assistant-Judge Payne, the Dean of Lichfield, Mr. D. Paeely, Mr. Huntley (Reading), and others, then addressed the meeting. In the intervals between the speeches the children, under the leadership of Miss Sanders, sang several glees which had been expressly composed for the occasion.

**OXFORDSHIRE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.**—Ministers and delegates from the ten churches met at Woodstock on Dec. 14. At the morning sitting the Rev. W. Allen, of Oxford, read a paper on "The young of our congregations," maintaining the mischievousness of the theory that children of tender age cannot be subjects of vital godliness, advocating great changes in our Sunday-school system, and throwing out suggestions with reference to church-membership, catechumen classes, and the use of catechisms. The subject was discussed by the Revs. J. M. Ryland, J. Allen, B.A., George St. Clair, J. Argyle, J. N. Smith, — Batten (of the Methodist Free Church), and Mr. R. H. Brooks. It was the unanimous wish of the meeting that Mr. Allen should take steps to get the paper published. At the afternoon sitting Mr. Edward O. Alden read a paper "Concerning psalms and hymns." In the discussion which followed, it was complained that many of our hymns are unsuitable in sentiment and a hindrance to worship, and that prejudice retards the adoption of chanting, while it was acknowledged that much progress has been made of late years. In the evening a public meeting was held in the Town-hall, and several addresses delivered on the subject of education. The Rev. J. M. Ryland presided. At a business meeting held in the afternoon, the Rev. G. St. Clair resigned the secretaryship, on account of his resignation of the pastorate at Banbury, and the Rev. J. M. Ryland was appointed in his place.

**BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTER CONGREGATIONAL UNION.**—The autumnal meetings of this association were held at Clevedon on the 9th and 10th inst. On Wednesday evening the sermon was preached to a large congregation by the Rev. Joseph Morris, of Brunswick Chapel, Bristol. The delegates met in the same place on Thursday morning, under the presidency of the Rev. Samuel Shaw, the pastor of the Clevedon Congregational Church. Two papers were read; the first by the Rev. R. E. Pritchett, of Weston-super-Mare, on "The Co-operation of Churches," and the second by the Rev. Samuel Hebditch, of Bristol, on the question, "Who is Responsible for Ministerial Success?" Interesting and useful discussions followed each of the papers, in which the Revs. H. I. Roper, G. Wood, B. A., E. J. Hartland, A. Morton Brown, LL.D., and H. O. Wills, Frederick Wills, W. Cress, Esq., and others took part. After dinner R. White, Esq., Blakeney, the treasurer, made some financial statements, and several votes of thanks were passed. In the evening a public meeting was held in the chapel, F. Wills, Esq., presiding; when addresses were delivered by the Revs. Dr. Brown, of Cheltenham, "On the Duty of Churches to Evangelise the Districts around Them"; J. Gwynne Jones, of Kingwood Tabernacle, Wotton-under-Edge, "On the Necessity of Healthy Piety for Effective Church Work"; and Thomas Hind, of Bristol, "On the Sin and Danger of Religious Indecision in Hearers of the Gospel." This meeting was very largely attended.

**MISSIONARIES IN CHINA.**—While the disturbances at Yang-tchou are exciting public attention, the Foreign Office has issued the annual series of commercial reports from her Majesty's Consuls in China. Among these is one from Mr. Chaloner Alabaster, acting Vice-Consul at Che-foo, and he takes occasion in his report this year to notice the missionary operations in the district. He states that two English societies—the London Missionary Society and the Baptist Missionary Society—are represented, each of them, by an energetic minister at work in

the district. He says that these missionaries live away from the town, in villages. In its neighbourhood they are not only unmolested, but have by their moderation, piety, and charity obtained considerable influence. The mandarins, says the Vice-Consul, "feel no jealousy of their progress, as they make no attempts to interpose between the converts and their natural authorities. The literati feel no apprehension, as they do not direct their efforts against the traditions handed down by the sages and scholars of antiquity; and the common people look up to them with feelings of gratitude for the assistance always readily extended in times of sickness or distress." The Vice-Consul adds:—"I do not think that the progress of a religion is fairly shown by tables giving the number of nominal Christians, but I am convinced that the mission work is advancing, as I hear on all sides good reports of the English missionaries. Their schools are filled, and the attendance at the chapels each Sunday appears larger than on that preceding; and so long as they continue devoting their efforts to making their listeners Christians, and not members of religious organisations, I have little doubt that their labours will continue as successful as they have been heretofore."

**CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.—WORKHOUSE VISITATION.**—This branch of the work of this society is carried on in five of the largest London workhouses, in which about 4,000 of the poor inmates are visited every week in about 105 sick, infirm, and other wards, besides several halls for the able-bodied. In this work, which none can fully understand but those acquainted with the state of the inmates, the members generally meet with a warm reception. The message of mercy is generally received with gladness, and the consolations of the Gospel, to support them in the hardships they have to endure, is often manifest. Some of the death-bed scenes witnessed in these places are truly appalling. On the other hand many cases of happy death-beds are often witnessed. Not a few have, it is known, been brought to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus, through the ministrations of the members. In the condition of these poor souls, the monotony of whose lives, without any other trials, makes life in many cases a burden almost insupportable, these visits, and any other changes, are hailed with the greatest pleasure. To meet this the members held last year, in two of the houses, a meeting, which it was intended to hold annually, at which a treat of cake, &c., was given to all the poor people, and which they heartily enjoyed, the utmost satisfaction being given to the guardians and all concerned. But the expense of such "treats" when a house, as in the case of Bethnal-green, had over 1,200 inmates in it, is very heavy. They are most anxious to engage in this work again during the ensuing winter months, but cannot without the needful funds are provided. To give a "treat" to the whole of the inmates of the five houses visited would cost a considerable sum. They therefore appeal to those having the means to enable them to accomplish this most desirable purpose; donations in any form will be most gratefully received by the secretary at the Mission Hall, Flemming-street, Hoxton, N.

**BERMONDSEY.**—The fifth anniversary of the opening of Alfred-street Temporary Congregational Chapel was celebrated on Tuesday evening, the 15th inst., by a tea and public meeting, at which the chapel was quite full. Tea having been concluded, the chair was taken by W. T. Paton, Esq., of Islington. Prayer having been offered by the Rev. G. B. Scott, of Sunbury, the report was read by Mr. C. Kemp, the secretary, from which it appeared that all the operations connected with the church and Sunday-school had been carried on during the year with efficiency, and that during the year ten had been added to the membership of the church. The chairman delivered a vigorous and genial address; he was followed by the Rev. J. Sinclair, the pastor, who referred to the hard work and satisfactory results of the past year, and to the importance of erecting a new chapel. This he felt to be extremely desirable; first, because it was impossible to carry on the work efficiently in the place which they now occupied. In the forenoon it was nearly full of children who came to the Sunday-school, and who remained to the service. This prevented adults from enjoying the quiet necessary to the comfortable and profitable performance of Divine service. In the afternoon the place was uncomfortably crowded, although he had a large class of youths in his own house, and the superintendent of the school gave a room in his house for the infant-class. Dr. Raleigh, in the course of some remarks, said that some years ago the idea prevailed in the Church, that the great object of her existence was the personal edification of her members. Now, the feeling was that she must also work for the good of others; yes, work, not mere benevolence. The Father was asking them, have all the children come home? Let them work so that they may be able to give a satisfactory answer to that question. Dr. Edmond then addressed the meeting. He spoke of five battles in which all must engage: the battle of the hand, of the head, of the heart, of the house, and of the heavens. The Doctor's address was full of fancy, pathos, and force, and was highly appreciated; and we trust all who heard it will be permanently benefited by it. The meeting was subsequently addressed shortly by the Rev. R. Macbeth, the Rev. G. B. Scott, Messrs. Thomas Ellis, sen., and Thomas Beardsell.

The first section of the Metropolitan District Railway from South Kensington to Westminster will be opened in a few days.

**GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, CALEDONIAN-ROAD, N.**—Number of patients for the week ending December 19, 1,463, of which 487 were new cases.



## Correspondence.

## CHURCH AND CONGREGATION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I wish, if you will allow me, to add a few concluding words to the remarks which you have permitted me to make on the relations of "Church and Congregation" amongst Independents. If, as I think I have shown, the New Testament contains no hint of a division between them, but uniformly implies their identity, then those who maintain the present system ought at least to show cause why we should depart from apostolic practice. If it should be urged that such identity was practically the effect of persecution, and therefore an accidental peculiarity rather than a model for us, it will usually be found that such arguments rest on some assumption which has no other foundation whatever than "the tradition of the fathers." If it be insisted that the spirit of the New Testament implies the desirability of purity of communion, we reply that the example of the New Testament shows that this is not to be secured by a discrimination of candidates for admission. If it be maintained that the delivery of an incestuous man to Satan (1 Cor. v.), and occasional commands to avoid the company of disorderly brethren till they are ashamed (2 Thess. iii. 14, &c.), imply excommunication, and that excommunication involves admission by examination, we answer that the first assertion is doubtful, and the second manifestly fallacious. If the case in 1 Cor. is a precedent for anything, it is certainly a precedent for delivering offenders to Satan "for the destruction of the flesh"; and the difficulty of following such an example exactly makes the whole case of dubious application. Still, if it is thought likely that any one who so outraged the general sense of decency might disturb the feelings of others by a perverse and hypocritical attendance at the Lord's Supper, notwithstanding the faithful warnings of the pastor and the general disgust of all, it is quite possible to vest ultimately in the communicants, and mediately in a court appointed by them, the power of enforcing his absence. So much for supposed Scriptural objections to the reform many of us desire.

On the other hand, I assert that the simple hypothesis of a frank dependence on the selective affinity of spiritual sympathies explains all the phenomena of New Testament history, while departure from it, in the vain desire for uniformity of creed, or in the coarse craving for governmental compulsion, goes far to explain the corruptions of after ages. On that hypothesis one can easily understand how three thousand were added to the church at once; how Simon Magus, equally with the Eunuch, was baptized without any questions asked; the apparent absence of any surprise on the part of the apostles at the mixed character of the churches as they grew up; the entire absence of any reference to an outside congregation; and many other phenomena of the New Testament records which, on the supposition that our present system was practised, are utterly inexplicable.

Again, had Christians continued to rely for the growth of the church on the selective affinity of spiritual sympathies, legal establishments of religion would have been impossible, as well as every form of Christian persecution, whether political or social. And here let me say that there could be no greater mistake than to suppose, as some objectors seem to do, that we are proposing to adopt simply the English Episcopalian system of communion. The theory of a national establishment leaves no room for such free play of spiritual sympathy as we desire. It insists that every man born within certain territorial limits is a member of a particular religious communion, whether he likes it or not. It has in times past degraded the solemn memorial of the Lord's death into a test of legal competency for office, and the evil effects of the sacrilege are far from exhausted now. Amongst these effects is the disturbance and perversion of the natural action of spiritual sympathies, by the tyranny of a caste prejudice. No more need be said to show how merely plausible, and how substantially false, is the notion that we are seeking to ape the Church of England.

But friends of mine, whom I have in vain urged to write to you on the subject, tell me that there are practical and insuperable objections to the working of a system so free as I sketched out in my first letter. "You must have a constituency," they say—an observation with which I quite agree. I only object to forming the constituency out of half or a third of the congregation. It surely will not be contended that it is impossible to frame a constituency on the basis of attendance at the public worship, combined with contribution to the expenses of the congregation. Others draw dismal pictures of the evils that must ensue, if people are allowed to vote on church business without being certificated as regenerate. But so long as it is a notorious fact that in regard to temper, self-control, and judgment, the inner circle has, to say the least, no advantage whatever over the outer, it is difficult to see what harm could be done by breaking down the partition. Taking the average of Independent Churches throughout the land, it would require some hardihood to assert that the management of business in church-meetings is any illustration of the fitness of the saints to judge the earth. It would be ill-natured, perhaps, to say that things could not well be worse than they are;

but they certainly might be a great deal better. There is in our congregations a vast reserve of common sense which is allowed to have no influence at all on church business. I am greatly mistaken if a freer system would not give us the benefit of it all.

I can sincerely respect, while I do not in the least share, the fears of those who think we wish to obscure the distinction between the Church and the World. What we do wish is to remove an arbitrary line, which distracts attention from the real nature of that distinction. We wish the distinction to make itself felt by its own inherent force, as does the difference between life and death. "A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." And by the "hill" the Great Teacher surely does not mean the chief seats of the synagogue, but an elevated life. "Let your light so shine before men, that they, seeing your good works, may glorify your Father who is in heaven." I cannot help thinking that this noble command would be much more likely to receive obedience, if "light" and "works" had not been practically put into a secondary place by arbitrary marks of distinction which the children of God have invented for themselves. The difference between an oasis and the surrounding desert would not be any the more clearly marked by building a stone wall around the former; but if the wall should intercept the free air of heaven, it would tend to obliterate the real distinction, and leave an arbitrary boundary alone remaining. But the analogy suggested by the formal relations of church and congregation is perhaps something different from that. It reminds one rather of some old towns which have monstrously outgrown their ancient limits, but in which the old cramping walls and narrow gates are jealously preserved, to the great inconvenience of traffic and hindrance of free growth. There is as much of the city outside the walls as inside. Then why keep up an awkward and inconvenient sham?

If it is urged that the standard of spiritual life would suffer, the obvious reply is that while the same means of grace for the promotion of spiritual life would remain intact, some hindrances would be taken out of the way, to which only traditional custom could blind us. Spiritual life can have no more deadly foes than hollow pretence and spiritual pride. And in whatever light the distinction between church and congregation may be represented, still, as the average of character in each is pretty much the same, there must be something of formality and pretence in the separation. Again, the very fact of this unreality, this acted falsehood—for it is nothing more nor less—heightens and intensifies the dangers always attendant on separation and exclusiveness. In how many instances "joining the church" is the first step in spiritual declension! And naturally so; for whatever explanations are given, whatever warnings uttered, the very fact of the separation between the received candidate and those left outside will inevitably seem to him to involve some sort of superiority on his part, which his elders have certified him to possess. But as all live much the same lives, he is driven to find that superiority in some mysterious, occult gift, not only better than, but independent of, morality; and then only one of two results is possible—sanctimoniousness or indifference, according to the disposition of the person affected.

Finally, there are two reasons why this subject should receive from Free Church-men much more serious attention than it seems to do at present. One is the practical separation between communion and church-membership, which is becoming common everywhere. Now, though the present state of things is unsatisfactory, it will become positively absurd if, out of a number of people habitually communing at the Lord's Table, a self-elected portion only are to be allowed to vote on the common business. At present the celebration of the Lord's Supper is the only religious act which marks the separation of the church from the congregation. Take that away, and the sole distinction of the former will be the right of voting at church-meetings; that is the body which ought to be "the house of God, the pillar and ground of the truth," contentedly gives up every other distinctive position but that of a congregational oligarchy and ultimate arbiter of such matters as bills for painting and whitewash. To this bathos we must assuredly come, if church-membership is separated from communion. There is only one way of avoiding it. It is in vain to contend for keeping the communion close. The tendency of opinion on that subject is too plain to be mistaken. There is only one way of avoiding the climax of absurdity which is before us, and that is to throw the management of congregational business on the congregation, and to recognise as members of the church all those who, by the habitual practice of communion, profess to belong to it.

Another reason why the subject is deserving of more attention is this: that the exclusive and sectarian spirit too often, though by no means uniformly, fostered by the present system, is a serious hindrance to the progress and victory of Free Church principles in the nation. It is impossible to doubt that there is latent in the Free Churches a political power which, if strained to its utmost, would settle the question of other Establishments besides the Irish in a very short time. Why is it not exerted? There may be many other reasons; but I cannot help suspecting that one is the narrowing influence exerted on many minds, and the dislike excited in others, by the exclusive, self-glorifying, and too often inquisitorial system of our churches. There are even

prominent Nonconformists who show traces of a secret distrust of the competency of Free Churchism to develop the nation's religious life. They look upon the churches to which they themselves belong in the light of private societies for the encouragement of a special form of piety, rather than as congregations of the Catholic Church; and wherever this is the case, there is always a tenderness for political establishments, together with a pious horror of the Liberation Society.

Besides, we constantly hear lamentations that the rich and successful who rise from our ranks too often imitate the disgusted sectary who declared that "he would give up all religion and go to church." Many of these cases may, perhaps, without any breach of charity, be explained by moral cowardice and petty social ambition. But that explanation does not go very far, and in many cases it would be as false as uncharitable to apply it. There is no denying that the Gospel according to the Broad Church has a comprehensiveness and a charity, which manifest the universality of Christianity more clearly than most other modern presentations of the truth. Directly or indirectly it almost always attracts and moulds the spiritual experience of those who by force of intellect attain a wider horizon of life than they had known in youth. And then, making all allowance for exceptional congregations to be found here and there, the wider sympathies they have learned are almost sure to be vexed and troubled by little incongruities in the Free Church system under which they have been brought up. In nine cases out of ten it will be found that these incongruities are connected with the false and unscriptural relations of "church and congregation." Such men as these have usually no time for careful thought on the subject. They do not remember that it is the reaction of Nonconformity on the National Establishment which has forced its expansion. They do not bethink them that the existence of Free Churches outside it is an essential condition of its vitality, that is, that at its very best it must involve the sacrifice of religious equality, and the perpetuation of injustice. They do not reflect on the miserable contrast between the martyr spirit of old—the truth against the world—and the strange worldliness of modern reformers who think truth may best be shaken from the Lord Chancellor's wig, or at any rate is best protected by his ingenious straining of ancient forms. They do not consider that after every ecclesiastical law has been racked out of joint to give the new answer demanded of it, still the future progress of religion must in the inevitable course of things be decided by Free Churches. All this may be true, and may diminish the import of such defections. But it is not the less true that the loss of each one of such men helps to put off the coming emancipation of the Church from the State. I do not contend that this drain of our energies would be wholly stopped by the reforms proposed in these letters, but something at least would be done to weaken its causes.

I am not over sanguine. The system to which I object may probably outlive me. But yet they are many signs of its decay. These excite the alarm of the timid who sigh for a return of Puritan times. If only those signs were understood, they would be seen to be not an autumnal decay of the leaves, but the withering of the blossom when the fruit begins to form. But now, apologising for the unintentional length of this final letter,

I remain henceforth, as formerly,  
SEMPER AUDITOR.

MR. MILL ON THE LATE WESTMINSTER ELECTION. —Mr. John Stuart Mill has broken silence about the election at Westminster in a letter to M. Esquiros, published in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*. Mr. Mill believes that the principal causes of his defeat are three:—1. The great superiority of organisation among his opponents, acting as they were under a business man, working for his own interests. 2. Their abundance of money. 3. The hostility of nearly all the vestrymen and local notabilities, who were scared by the propositions for municipal reform. Setting aside the check sustained in his person by the advanced Liberal party, for himself Mr. Mill has nothing to regret. He hopes to exercise as great, and a far more congenial activity, in favour of his opinions as a writer than as a member of Parliament. The check sustained by the Radical party is far more difficult to explain. Some people think it was merely an affair of money, and it is certain that money was employed for corruption on a deplorable scale. (A million was withdrawn from the Bank the week before the elections.) Then that social influence which is very powerful in this country was made the most of by the other side. But the chief thing, and that which explains the great importance of money in our elections, is the slowness of the British intelligence, which needs to be stirred in every possible manner before it can persuade itself to move. Another cause is to be found in the defective organisation of the working men. To those reasons for Mr. Mills' defeat Mr. Malleton, the hon. secretary of his committee, adds a few others in a letter to the *Times*. He writes:—"No doubt reckless expenditure of money on the other side, and the perfect organisation which unlimited means make possible, told against us, but all this we were prepared for and meant to beat, as we had beaten it before, by the strength of popular enthusiasm. Unfortunately, the full wind upon which we had counted to fill our sails fell away under the influence of the Bouverie correspondence and the Bradlau subscription."



## ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

## THE MINISTERIAL RE-ELECTIONS.

## THE PRIME MINISTER.

On Monday, the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, First Lord of the Treasury, was re-elected for Greenwich. The hustings were erected on Blackheath, near the Ranger's House, but the wet and rough weather prevented anything like an effective demonstration. No fewer than from 5,000 to 6,000 persons, composed of all classes of the people, mustered in front of the hustings, and behaved throughout the proceedings with a patience, an order, and a decorum in striking contrast with the turbulence exhibited at many recent popular and even some clerical gatherings. Mr. Gladstone was proposed by Mr. Angerstein, seconded by Mr. J. R. Jolly, and duly elected. He was most enthusiastically received by the assembly, who seemed entirely of one mind, to judge from the total absence of those counter manifestations generally so freely indulged in on such occasions.

Mr. GLADSTONE, on advancing to address the assembly, was greeted with renewed marks of vociferous applause. He said that the electors of Greenwich had proved to him, according to the old proverb, those friends in need who were friends indeed, and their conduct had left on his mind and heart an impression which never could be effaced. The country had been appealed to on one of the clearest questions by the late Government, and everybody, he might say, understood the reply, and it was comprehended especially by the late Minister of the Crown. He was not there to challenge the discretion of the late Ministry, but it was evident that, by the verdict which the country had given, they had not that confidence which they had anticipated. So far as he could judge from the declarations and avowed sentiments of candidates addressing their constituents and now returned, the majority by which the late House of Commons declared its sentiments on the vital question that was afterwards referred to the people, instead of being converted into a minority, had returned about twice as large as it was before. (Cheers.) It was the first case, he believed, upon record that a Ministry had melted away before the Parliament which they had themselves called into existence, without looking that Parliament in the face, without asking from it the judgment they had undertaken to challenge. He had been asked to undertake a task which he confessed he found himself almost unequal to; but if he was asked why he was willing to make the attempt, his answer was that he was sustained by the conviction of a good and just cause, by the belief that in the conduct of great questions which were before the country he should receive from his countrymen a considerate and indulgent treatment, his great object being to strengthen the institutions of the country and to establish unity, harmony, and concord amongst all classes in the empire. With regard to the particular subjects that would call for the immediate attention of the new Parliament, he would only refer to them in such a manner at least as to show that the Government were not insensible that great and heavy duties attached to them. They had indeed won a party triumph, and, above all, a triumph of the principles of a party—principles which would be embodied in important measures which would be necessary to give full effect to Parliamentary reform. There were many imperfections and anomalies attaching to the recent bill which would require a careful review; at the same time he would observe that that general review would not be the business of the hour, because there were other matters of great public interest which would now have to be decided. Mr. Gladstone said he had at all times given his vote in favour of open voting, and would continue to do so, with one important reservation—namely, that, whether by open voting or by whatever means, free voting must be secured. (Cheers.) Another matter that required redress was the grievance under which compound householders now stood. Undoubtedly it would be the duty of a Liberal Government forthwith to set about a means of discovering, in the best, the simplest, and the most inoffensive form, a remedy for these pressing evils. (Cheers.) The bankruptcy laws also undoubtedly required amendment, and the education of the people must be earnestly looked to; and to these subjects it must not be supposed that Government were indifferent, or wished unduly to postpone them. The questions in relation to labour and capital would be considered, and, if possible, a satisfactory solution arrived at. Mr. Gladstone then adverted to the subject of public expenditure, expressing his inability to understand why it had been so largely increased under the late Government, and promised in the future greater economy. It was easy to add three millions to the expenditure of the country, but it was another matter to take them off again.

When you put three millions on to the public expenditure you create a number of new relations—(laughter)—a number of new offices, a number of new claims, a number of new expectations. (Renewed laughter and "Hear, hear.") And you can't, gentlemen, and, what is more, you ought not to, destroy all these in a moment. The reason why public retrenchment in this country has been satisfactory to the nation is this—that no country, no Parliament, in pursuing the work of retrenchment, ever has been so studiously observant of the claims of justice to every individual. And, therefore, the work of retrenchment must be a well-considered and a gradual work. But I ask you to look at the names of the men who have been placed in the great spending departments of the country. (Hear, hear.) The study, the idea that has been the formation of the present Administration has been to place able and upright men in charge of the

public purse—(cheers)—men of administrative experience, men of proved ability, men, lastly, holding their seats in the House of Commons, and, therefore, immediately responsible to the representatives of the people. (Hear, hear.) It would not become me, gentlemen, to promise what we can do; but this I can tell you, that my hon. and right hon. friends connected with the various departments most concerned in the public expenditure have, even before the early moment at which I speak, directed their very first attention to this subject, and that I, for one, shall be as deeply disappointed as you can be if in the Estimates which it will be our duty to present in February, you do not already perceive some results of their opening labours. (Cheers.)

Mr. Gladstone then spoke at some length on the Irish Church question. They had heard a great amount of pharisaical or at any rate womanish lamentation that the state of Ireland should have been made a party cry. A more idle complaint never reached his ears. The state of Ireland had come to such a pitch that it had made itself heard and felt in England by painful and harrowing manifestations, and it forced itself upon the consideration of every party. The Conservative party had admitted that the question of Ireland was the question of the day, and they had professed a policy of their own. As declared by Mr. Disraeli and the Earl of Mayo, that policy was to establish and endow with public funds the Roman Catholic institutions as well as the Presbyterian clergy in that country. He (Mr. Gladstone) would leave them to judge how far this would be satisfactory to the people of Ireland. Both sides admitting, therefore, that the condition of Ireland was the great question for the country to consider, he and his party felt they had no alternative but to adopt the measures they had proposed. They did not lie in wait for any measure which the Conservative Government might wish to propose, and then proceed to pick a hole in it, but they said that the whole method of their opponents was unsatisfactory:—

This policy of multiplying endowed Churches will not do. The people of England don't like the system, even as it now exists; they will like it still worse—and when I say the people of England, I mean the people of the three kingdoms—they will like it still worse if you extend and enlarge it. The circumstances of Ireland—without judging those of any other country—make the system of Church Establishments wholly unsuited to that country—make it a source of discord and difficulty instead of a messenger of peace and a blessing; and, therefore, to that system, so far as depends upon us, we are resolved to put an end. (Loud cheers.) Now, gentlemen, this I say, if when the condition of Ireland is admitted on all hands to demand attention; if one party has already proposed methods of procedure which in our hearts the great bulk of us condemn, and which the great majority, as we have seen, of the people condemn, I want to know what is the use of political party at all if a party is not to be organised for the purpose of giving effect to principles such as those which are involved in legislation for the condition of Ireland? (Cheers.) We are not ashamed of party struggles on great questions. How has Parliamentary Reform been carried? How was Free Trade established? How were the Roman Catholics admitted to Parliament? How have all the great political changes of high interest been accomplished except through the instrumentality of party? I say that issue has been legitimately joined, the verdict of the people has been taken, and those who now form the Liberal party would be totally unworthy either of the special name they bear, or of the name of English statesmen or politicians, if on account of this idle reproach they were to halt and hang back in the career on which they have entered. (Cheers.)

There was another great question relating to Ireland which would require a speedy settlement—namely, that of the Irish land, and which would be dealt with in order of succession. He had noticed with great pleasure the feeling which had been shown during the recent elections in regard to the Irish question. On all sides there had been shown a determination to assist the Government in essentially altering the state of ecclesiastical arrangements in Ireland, with, at the same time, an unabated attachment to the Church of England—

And I am glad to think that that attachment and the great influence of the clergy, which I own I think they have used improperly—(laughter, and a voice, "Bar Dr. Miller")—with some brilliant exceptions—(cheers)—and among them your most able and devoted pastor the Vicar of Greenwich. (Cheers.) I am glad to think that in the main the great influence of the clergy has been gained by the conviction that they do their duty. (Hear, hear.) They may differ; there may be wise men and foolish men among them—(laughter)—but for my part I am happy to think that, speaking generally, they are men in earnest, they are men who attract the respect of the people by working hard in their vocation. And, gentlemen, it appears to me that the Church of England may be perfectly well content to take her chance among the vicissitudes of coming times, so long as her clergy strive with might and main to do their duty. (Hear.) In that way, with every allowance for human infirmity, they will earn the confidence of all those who are attached to the Church of England—ay, and of men who do not belong to her communion. And for my own part I believe they may look forward with cheerfulness to the future. They ought not to mix up the cause of the Church of England with the cause of the Church of Ireland, because the Church of England may be truly said in the main to minister to the people—less, perhaps, in the great centres of the population, where it is relatively weakest, but—taking the country as a whole—it ministers to the people. Doing so, it is appreciated; but it is idle to suppose that the case of an Establishment which so ministers to a great portion of the nation ought to be weighed in the same scales with an Establishment that ministers only to a handful, and which is compelled in a great degree to form a subject of dissatisfaction, if not of exasperation, to the rest. (Hear, hear.) But, gentlemen, when we separate the case of Ireland from the case of Great Britain we are met with this—"The Roman Catholics never will be content: what they want is ascendancy." Now, it seems to me that ascendancy is

the very thing upon which we are making war. (Hear, hear.) It so happens that the ascendancy against which we are making war is a Protestant ascendancy. We are determined, so far as depends upon us, utterly to extinguish and efface that ascendancy. (Cheers.) But the very principle that binds us, which has led us to associate together, for the purpose of putting down Protestant ascendancy would bind us, with at least equal strength, to prevent the growth of Roman Catholic ascendancy. (Renewed cheers.) I will not, gentlemen, ask whether our Roman Catholic fellow countrymen desire this ascendancy or not. I must say that I myself think it an injustice to impute to them such a desire. (Hear.) But, then, I am now speaking not as it were among ourselves but to our opponents. I am speaking to those who do impute this desire, and what language ought we to hold to them? It is idle to tell them that the Roman Catholics don't desire ascendancy, because they won't believe us. But, gentlemen, let us hold this language:—"The Roman Catholics are strong so long as they are banded with us in the pursuit of justice. The Roman Catholics would be weak, they would be almost contemptible, the moment that they went beyond the line of justice, and demanded for themselves that which we are now, along with them, engaged in denying to and in taking away from others." (Hear, hear.) It is ludicrous, gentlemen, in this great Protestant country, to alarm us with such bugbears as these. (Laughter and cheers.) We are sometimes told, in language which is intended to be admonitory, but which, I think, is insulting, that the Roman Catholics will always be ready, by trimming between parties, to determine the course of government in this country. I give all possible credit to the Roman Catholics for earnestness, sincerity, and firm combination; but, gentlemen, I don't give them such credit as to hold, what many of our opponents seem to hold, that we, the Protestants of England and of Scotland, and the Protestants, also, of Ireland, are nothing but a set of "dummies," whom the Roman Catholics are to direct, to mould, and to shape just as they please. (Laughter and cheers.) In this self-governing country, in this country the old home of liberty, long trained alike by its local and its central institutions for the beneficial exercise of power in and by and through the hands of the people, we are not, after this extended experience, to be terrified by the raising of phantoms such as these. We confide in the traditions that we have received from our fathers; we confide in the soundness both of the civil and the religious privileges which prevail in this country; we confide in the sacredness of that cause of justice in which we are engaged, and with this confidence and this persuasion we are prepared to go forward. (Cheers.) And, gentlemen, if I thank you once more in my closing words from the bottom of my heart for the unprecedented kindness which I have received at your hands, I value it chiefly because in the years that may remain to me of public life it will enable me to go cheerfully onwards in what I believe to be an arduous, but yet a noble—I will even say a sacred—struggle, and to labour with whatever powers of mind or of body Providence may grant me for that great object which ought to be the aim of every patriot and every citizen—namely, that we should preserve for our children the rich inheritance which has been handed down to us by our forefathers, and that we should seek to preserve it, not by an idle reliance upon mere prescription and upon the deeds of other men, but by redressing whatever errors in the exercise of a just discrimination we can detect, by bringing it back wherever it has swerved to the sacred principles of justice; and in that way knitting together more closely and more firmly those ties of concord among the people which must always form the basis of loyalty and of patriotism, the security of our institutions and of the august throne of the Queen. (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

The proceedings terminated with hearty cheers for the Queen. It need hardly be added that the Premier left the hustings amid the enthusiastic acclamations of the multitude.

## THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

The re-election of Mr. Bright, the new President of the Board of Trade, for Birmingham, took place at Bingley Hall on Monday at ten o'clock. The weather was very wet. The utmost order prevailed throughout, and the meeting, which at the commencement could not have numbered more than 400 or 500 persons, had increased to between 2,000 and 3,000 before the proceedings closed.

The right hon. gentleman was proposed by Mr. J. S. WRIGHT, seconded by Mr. W. HARRIS, and duly elected amid enthusiastic cheers.

Mr. BRIGHT said that when he was elected five weeks ago he had no expectation or intention of putting the constituency to the trouble of reconsidering its choice. He appeared before them in a character which he had assumed with extreme reluctance. Mr. Gladstone, who had been called to office by doubtless the willing voice of the Queen, and by the concurrence of the vast majority of the people, soon after he proceeded to the formation of his Administration had asked him to join the Government.

I have reason to know that he made that proposition with the cordial and gracious acquiescence of her Majesty the Queen. (Loud and prolonged cheering.) As you know, I had very strong grounds for refusing to change my seat and place in the House of Commons. The arguments which were used to induce me to do so were arguments based entirely upon what was considered best for the interests of the great Liberal party and for the public service—(cheers)—and I was obliged to admit, looking at those arguments from that point of view, that they were not easily to be answered. On the other hand, I had to offer arguments which were more of a private and personal nature, which I also believed to be unanswerable. But when the private and the personal came to be weighed against the apparent public reasons—(cheers)—then the private and the personal yielded to the public—(loud cheers)—and I surrendered my inclination, and I may say also my judgment, to the opinions and to the judgment of my friends. (Cheers.) Mr. Gladstone told me he did not wish me to accept any office that was inferior in importance or in emolument to any office held by any one of his colleagues—(cheers)—and he proposed that I should accept the position of



Secretary of State for India. (Cheers.) Now, very many of my friends have urged in times past that I should undertake that office—(cheers)—and not a few have expressed regret that I have not accepted it. (Hear, hear.) In a sentence, therefore, I think it right to explain why I took the course which led to my declining that important post. You know that twelve years ago, just before I came here, I suffered from an entire breakdown of my health, which cut me off from public labour for about two years. The Indian department, I believe, is one of very heavy work, and I felt I was not justified in accepting it unless there were some great probability of some useful result which could not be accomplished under any other chief of that office. (Hear, hear.) Now, my own opinion is that the views I have expressed in times past—especially in the year 1858, when the India Government Bill was passing through Parliament—are sound, and that the time will come when it will be necessary to apply them to the government of India; but I believe that public opinion is not yet sufficiently advanced to allow us to adopt them; and that if I had taken the office I should have found myself unable to carry into effect the principles which I believe to be right with regard to Indian government. (Hear, hear.) At the same time, I will confess freely that it did not appear seemly for me—I think I should have felt that I was in a wrong place, with the views which I have held from my youth upwards—if I had connected myself distinctly with the conduct of the great military departments of the Indian Government. (Hear, hear.) Looking, therefore, at these points, I felt it my duty to decline the proposition; and I said that if I was to accept any seat in this Government, I should prefer to take the office of President of the Board of Trade. (Cheers.) In that office I may do a little good, and perhaps I may prevent some harm. (Laughter and cheers.) At least it will not, I hope, so burden me that I may be unable to take a reasonable part in the discussion of the great questions which must come very speedily before the House of Commons. (Hear, hear.) Having said thus much I must ask you to consider that although I stand before you in a new character, yet I have not the smallest intention of getting rid of my old one. (Cheers.) I hope the time has arrived in this country—it has only recently arrived—when a man may, perhaps without difficulty, act as an honest Minister of the Crown, and at the same time an honest and devoted servant and counsellor of the people. (Cheers.)

Mr. Bright appealed to them to give his conduct in office a lenient consideration, and if at any time his votes might appear in contradiction to votes he had given formerly, he asked them to judge by the results of the year's legislation, and ask whether, on such consideration, they could approve the conduct of the Government of which he had become a member. (Cheers.) Mr. Bright then spoke at length on public questions. He declared that the disorder which prevailed at the recent general election and the intimidation which had been exercised in many boroughs and counties, had confirmed the arguments in favour of the ballot, and made many eminent converts in its favour. He thought that public nominations might be dispensed with, and that it would be desirable to have all public-houses closed on the days of polling. The question of education was one which no doubt Parliament would consider, and which no Government could altogether leave out of its catalogue of matters to be dealt with. He denounced in strong terms the gross and scandalous expenditure of the country, and said that no Government was deserving of the confidence and support of the people of this country which could not carry on the administration of its affairs in a manner consistent with the dignity and security of England on a smaller sum than seventy millions a year. It was the duty of the Government in the present session of Parliament to settle finally if it were possible the great question of Ireland and the Irish Church, which was referred to the people at the recent general election, and it should not encumber itself with work that it could not do. Mr. Bright concluded a speech which occupied nearly an hour in delivery by appealing to the people of Birmingham for their sympathy and support in behalf of the present Government.

#### THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.

The re-election of the Right Hon. Robert Lowe for the University of London on Monday was proposed by Mr. JULIAN GOLDSMID and seconded by Dr. QUAIN. Mr. Grote, the Vice-Chancellor, presided. There was but a small attendance of graduates. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in thanking the electors for the renewed proof of their confidence, said he presumed that nothing had occurred since he last met them to diminish the confidence they felt in the new Government. Of the Government itself he could say nothing, inasmuch as the Government was not fully formed; indeed, his own office was not fully filled, awaiting confirmation that evening. His was a post the holder of which made himself disagreeable to everybody all round, but he was prepared for all the observation and all the obloquy to which he might be exposed, and he hoped for their kind and fair consideration.

#### THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

At Plymouth Sir R. P. COLLIER was re-elected without opposition. He justified his acceptance of office on the ground that every member of a party ought to put his services at the disposal of the Crown. He considered Mr. Gladstone had formed a strong Government. He anticipated that the next session of Parliament would be mainly occupied with the Irish Church question.

#### THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL.

Sir JOHN DUKE COLERIDGE was also re-elected on Monday without opposition for Exeter. The Guildhall was crowded to excess, and Sir John was received with great enthusiasm. In returning thanks, he said he trusted that the constitu-

cies of the empire would keep the Government alive respecting the Irish Church, land tenure in Ireland, the ballot, education, and other matters. Out of office he had worked zealously and steadily in support of the great and sacred principles of Liberalism, and he would continue to do so. Sir John said that when he was out of office his opponents reviled him for seeking it; when he refused office they reviled him for refusing it; and now he had accepted office they reviled him for accepting it. They had to make their living by these sort of things. He hoped they did make their living, and there he left them. (Renewed laughter, and cheers.) He took occasion to refer to the paramount claims of Sir R. Collier to be Attorney-General, which he had, indeed, always asserted. He would for himself far rather have preserved a private station with perfect independence of action and of speech, and have supported Mr. Gladstone, if it had been possible, as an independent member. But it appeared, even in the subordinate position he occupied in the House of Commons, he could not take this course without giving rise to serious misconstruction. Accordingly, he gave way, sacrificed his own private wishes, and he stood before them now as Solicitor-General.

#### FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY.

In being re-elected for Pontefract on Monday, Mr. CHILDERS said he believed Mr. Gladstone had succeeded in bringing into his Government the ablest men of the Liberal party. He expressed his own desire to promote efficiency and economy in his own department.

He had, however, accepted office on the clear understanding that the responsibility should be placed distinctly in himself as the Minister responsible to the Crown and to the country for carrying out the public wishes, and those who were associated with him at the Board of Admiralty fully recognised this fact, and would while he was in office perform their share of the departmental administration in direct subordination to himself. (Cheers.) He should endeavour to increase to the utmost the efficiency of the navy, to put or continue the navy of England in the state in which the country expected the navy to be—the navy being her especial pride and her first protection in the event of foreign difficulties; and he should be the last, from false motives of economy, or from any other cause, to allow our navy to fall below the standard at which it ought to be. But he should do all in his power to lop off those excrescences and redundancies of administration which, in his opinion, were sources of weakness rather than of strength. (Cheers.) What he wanted was a strong navy, a navy in which the appliances should be the best that could be obtained from the improvements effected by modern science, appliances placed in the hands of men thoroughly trained and disciplined, and, above all, made contented with their positions, and this he believed could be effected without interfering with reforms in the administration as would lead to such economy and reduction of the public burdens as would be satisfactory to the taxpayers of England. (Cheers.)

#### PRESIDENT OF THE POOR-LAW BOARD.

The Guildhall was thinly attended on Monday on the re-election of Mr. Goschen, and the proceedings were comparatively brief. The right hon. gentleman was nominated by Baron ROTHSCHILD, seconded by Mr. THOMSON HANKEY, and duly elected. In returning thanks Mr. GOSCHEN referred to the weight of responsibility that fell upon him in connection with his new duties. His sphere, as President of the Poor-law Board, was on the dark side of our social system.

His province is what I may call the bankruptcy of the million, and it appears to me that the Poor Law, like the Bankruptcy Law, can never give complete satisfaction, because both deal with something deplorable in itself. The utmost we can expect to obtain is to make the best of a bad job. I hope and believe that much may be done to grapple more effectually with that which is a growing evil, for I must speak of a growing evil when we have to face the terrible fact that, in the short space of two years the pauperism of the metropolis has increased 20 per cent., and that not less than 30,000 paupers—a number equal to the population of a good-sized town—have been added to the numbers of those who, I might also say, are closing in upon the industrious portions of certain districts of London, till the ratepayer of to-day himself becomes the pauper of tomorrow. I hope and believe that great improvements, both legislative and administrative, are possible, for public attention has been awakened to these facts, the action of Parliament has been more decided, and the labours of my predecessors have done much to loosen the ground; but those who ask for impossibilities do much to make impossible that which might otherwise be possible. The Poor-law Board always stands between two fires—between the honourable zeal of the philanthropist, on the one hand, and the prudent warnings of the political economist on the other. It was stated, I observe, at a meeting the other day, that we might dispense with the Poor Laws altogether if the Government would but employ all those who wanted employment—if it would take charge of the young, the old, and the infirm. Now, that is what I call asking for impossibilities. (Hear.) Government action can never be substituted for the "whole duty of man." You cannot expect Government to take the place of thrift and self-reliance, of family ties and parental care, and doctrines that encourage such views do not point to the cure of pauperism, but pauperise the mind as well as the body; and benevolence may wake up one day to find itself denounced as socialism in disguise by its warmest advocates. The duties of the Poor Law Board are serious enough without this imposition of impossible functions. The one practical difficulty with which it has had to contend from the first is not the degree of expenditure, not the degree of sternness, but how to discriminate and classify the classes with which it has to deal—to discriminate between the innocent, the helpless, and the temporary pauper, and the confirmed vagrant and the hopeless idler. (Hear, hear.) Directing itself chiefly to this, I believe much may be done to

discriminate between the class to whom charity is a blessing and the class to whom charity is a curse. (Cheers.) Till that is accomplished, we shall pass through a cycle of reactions—cries for more humanity and more expenditure at one time, and cries for a more stringent and deterrent system at another. As long as the gigantic machinery which is employed is so coarse that it cannot discriminate, so long will this state of things last; but it takes time to adapt such machinery and make it sufficiently delicate to sift the materials with which it has to deal.

#### VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.

Mr. W. E. Forster was re-elected on Monday without a semblance of opposition, though there had been vague talk of putting up Mr. W. M. Thompson or Mr. Powell, a Conservative. The day being wet, the attendance at Peckover-walk was limited. The right hon. gentleman was proposed by Mr. Ald. BROWN and seconded by Mr. R. KELL. In the course of his speech on returning thanks, Mr. Forster said that the position which had been assigned him in the Administration conferred on him very high honour and great responsibility, but both the honour and the responsibility would rest the more lightly on him because of the great interest he took in the questions with which he would more particularly have to deal.

It had been the object of his life to bring education home to the child of the poor man, and to remove a large proportion of the evils which afflicted our country by making ignorance, as far as legislation could make it, impossible. (Hear.) The study of the question had shown him the great difficulties in the way of a settlement, but he could not refuse to aid in their removal. (Hear.) The delay which must ensue because of these difficulties might lead to disappointment, but if such immediate and efficient action did not follow as they hoped for, they must remember that it was one thing to wish as they had all wished for a thing to be done, and another to do it. (Cheers.)

There was afterwards a luncheon at the Victoria Hotel, when Mr. Forster thus referred to the petition which had been presented against him:—

It was small consolation to tell him that the petition would never have been heard of but for the charges made against Mr. Ripley; nor could he accept the excuses that the signers of the petition did not know what they signed, or that the lawyers had a habit of inserting charges in petitions merely as matter of form. He regarded a petition in such a case as a very serious matter. The House of Commons so regarded it when the bill was passed, for what was the sentence for the grievous crime with which he had been charged, but seven years' political outlawry and practically a ruined reputation. (Hear.) He could not therefore look upon the petition as a light matter, but he could say, as he had said when first he heard of the matter, that he was prepared to meet any and every charge that might be brought against him. (Cheers.) He wished he could look back upon every act of his life with the same feeling of satisfaction as he could look back upon every one of his acts in connection with the late election. He had neither said nor done a single thing on account of which his conscience rebuked him, and he could not understand why, because some gentlemen over whom he had no control had chosen to present a petition against Mr. Ripley, Mr. Ripley's friends should make charges against him which they themselves acknowledged to be untrue. Some wished to prevent the matter coming to an issue, but when judges were employed it was not so easy to order them about as one pleased, and he saw nothing before them but to meet the case fairly and openly, and to do everything in their power to restore Bradford to the honourable position which it had always occupied up to the present time. (Cheers.)

A toast in honour of the Liberal party in the House of Commons was responded to by Mr. ILLINGSWORTH, M.P., and another in honour of ex-members by Mr. TITUS SALT and Mr. HOLDEN.

The other re-elections on Monday were those of Mr. Layard, the First Commissioner of Works, for Southwark; Mr. Stansfeld, Third Lord of the Treasury, for Halifax; Lord J. Hay, a Lord of the Admiralty, for Ripon; and Captain Vivian, Junior Lord of the Treasury, for Truro. In no case was there opposition.

#### ELECTION PETITIONS.

The number of petitions is now increased to sixty-four, of which only five relate to counties, the remainder being for cities or boroughs. The number of contested county elections will probably not exceed ten. The petitions against the Liberal members for the City have dropped through, the petitioners not having found security for costs. The petition at Rye, against Mr. J. Stuart Hardy, M.P., has also fallen through. The threatened petition against the return of the Conservative members for South Warwickshire has been abandoned; and that presented against the return of Mr. Laslett for Worcester has been withdrawn. Mr. Frewen has again petitioned against the return of Lord John Manners and his colleague for North Leicestershire. Petitions have been lodged against the return of Mr. Cowper and Lord Henry Scott for South Hants; and of Viscount Milton and Mr. Beaumont for the South-west Riding. The Ashton petition against Mr. Mellor has fallen through. The return of Major Dickson (Conservative), for Dover, is petitioned against. A petition has been presented against the return of Sir E. Lacon and the Hon. F. Walpole, the Conservative members for North Norfolk.

There are one or two petitions from Scotland. Major Walker has lodged a petition against the return of Sir Sidney H. Waterlow for the county of Dumfries. He claims the seat on the ground that Sir Sidney is disqualified, inasmuch as at the time of the election he was enjoying the emoluments of a contract entered into with the Government, and that he (the petitioner) had the majority of the legal



votes. Mr. Christie has lodged a petition against the return of Mr. Grieve for Greenock. The petitioner avers that the election of Mr. Grieve was effected by an extensive and elaborate organisation of undue influence and large expenditure, and that corrupt practices extensively prevailed. A petition has been presented against the return of Mr. Losh for the Northern Burghs; and the Lord-Advocate, who was returned for Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities, has, as we have already stated, been petitioned against.

The Irish election petitions now lodged impeach the returns for Dublin city, the boroughs of Londonderry, Belfast, Enniskillen, Drogheda, Carrickfergus, Carlow, Youghal, Athlone, Galway, and Cashel. In the case of Dublin a petition is presented by the Liberals against Sir A. Guinness, and by the Conservatives against Mr. Pim. In that of Londonderry the petition against Mr. Dowse, in the interest of Lord Claud J. Hamilton, is met by a memorial, to be presented to the House of Commons, for a commission specially to inquire into the corrupt practices at a previous as well as at the last election there. The Belfast petition is promoted by the Conservatives against Mr. McClure. Mr. Munster prays for Mr. O'Beirne's seat at Cashel.

In the case of the petition against the return of Mr. Leveson-Gower for Bodmin, where the petitioner had made himself one of the four sureties for costs, counsel applied on Saturday that the petition might be "vacated," and argued that the proceeding referred to was incurable. Mr. Justice Willes said his impression was against allowing a man to become his own surety; but as the question of practice might affect other cases, he would reserve his judgment.

The petition against Mr. Hugh Birley, the Conservative candidate for Manchester, on the ground that the firm of Macintosh and Co., of which he is a member, are Government contractors, was not, it appears, presented by the Liberal party of Manchester, but by individuals at their own risk. Mr. Birley, however, has not taken his seat; and it now appears that by a friendly arrangement between the solicitor of Mr. Birley and the solicitor of the United Liberal party, it has been arranged that the petition shall be prosecuted.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

**WESTMINSTER.**—Mr. Mill has written from Avignon to a friend in town to assure him that in the event of a vacancy in Westminster, resulting from the petition against Mr. Smith, he has no wish again to offer himself for the seat.

**WAREHAM.**—The nomination of candidates for Wareham was held on Monday. Mr. Drax (Conservative), and Mr. W. M. Calcraft (Liberal) were proposed. The show of hands was declared to be equal, and the polling was fixed for yesterday.

**DERBYSHIRE (SOUTH).**—Sir Thomas Gresley, M.P. for South Derbyshire, died at Shipley Hall on Friday, in the thirty-sixth year of his age. He was returned with Mr. R. Smith in the Conservative interest against Mr. Colville and Mr. Evans, the late Liberal members. The vacant seat will no doubt be contested.

**NOTTINGHAM.**—It is believed that Colonel Wright, the newly-chosen Tory member, will resign his seat on the first "convenient" occasion. It is asserted in well-informed quarters that the petition against his return was only withdrawn on the distinct personal understanding that the colonel would give up as soon as "circumstances" would permit. The names of Mr. Bernal Osborne and Mr. Seely are already mentioned for the probable vacancy at Nottingham.

**THE RECENT BRADFORD ELECTION.**—The following is a copy of a letter received from Mr. Miall, in reply to a letter of condolence sent by the working men of Clayton:—

Welland House, Forest-hill, S.E.,  
Dec. 10, 1868.

Messrs. Andrews and Firth.

Gentlemen,—Causes which I need not particularly state, but for which I cannot hold myself responsible, have prevented my being able until now to acknowledge the address of sympathy forwarded to me through you from the working men of Clayton. I beg now to express my heartfelt appreciation of the honour they have done me, and my cordial thanks for the generous feeling they have displayed. Though surprised and disappointed at the issue of the late election at Bradford, I rejoice with you in the triumphs achieved for Liberal principles in so many other parts of the country, and now hail with satisfaction the advent of Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Bright, and their colleagues to power. Whether my exclusion from Parliament was fairly and legitimately effected, time will soon show; at any rate, I shall not cease to labour in any sphere remaining open to me for the advancement of the political truths which I professed at Bradford, and which will always remain dear to my heart, as I doubt not they will to yours.

I am, gentlemen, yours faithfully and gratefully,  
EDWARD MIALL.

**THE LATE SOUTH SHROPSHIRE ELECTION.**—To a controversy current in the local newspapers as to the part played by the clergy in the recent contest in South Shropshire, Mr. Thomas Allen, a well-to-do farmer, has added an interesting account of an interview which the rector of his parish, the Rev. H. R. Lay, had with him a fortnight previous to the election. The rector visited Mr. Allen in the interest of the Conservative candidates, General Herbert and Colonel Cobbett, and, after exhausting all ordinary arguments to induce Mr. Allen to withdraw from his engagement to vote for Mr. Jasper More, the Liberal candidate, told him, *inter alia*, that Mr. More, being supported by Sir John Acton, must be a Roman Catholic; that Mr. Allen might as

well commit suicide as vote for him; that if he did vote for him he must no longer consider himself a member of the rev. canvasser's church; that Mr. More was a supporter of Mr. Gladstone; that if Mr. Gladstone had his way Roman Catholics would come into power; that they would confiscate his (the rector's) living; that they would put a pile of wood round him (the farmer) and roast him; that even if he escaped this unpleasant end, and was permitted to die a natural death, there would be no Protestant clergyman left to bury him, and he would have to call in a Roman Catholic priest. Mr. Allen's wife and son, who were present at the interview, ventured to smile at these forecastings, but were sternly rebuked by the rector, who warned them that it was "no laughing matter."

**THE "SCREW" IN WALES.**—The Conservatives cannot understand the Liberal victory in Wales. The Principality, a Liberal branch of the United Kingdom, has aroused itself from sleep, clothed itself in armour, fought a good fight, and won noble triumphs: and the Conservatives are stricken with wonder at the conquests. Wales has partially thrown off landlordism, rejected the dictatorship of great families, and asserted itself. Wales has dared to be true to its convictions. It has had the courage to speak what it thought, and to act upon its own judgment. Forthwith the Conservatives are amazed and invent all sorts of reasons for the Welsh electors having the spirit to obey their conscience, and committing the offence of voting against landlordism for religious equality. Says one them, "Letters had been sent to Conservative electors threatening them with arson" if they voted for the Conservative candidates. We emphatically affirm that there is not a word of truth in this, and we call upon Colonel Corbett, who fabricates it, to produce and publish one of the letters he alludes to as issuing from recognised Liberal quarters. Says another, the Welsh pulpit was used as a "screw," spiritual condemnations were uttered, and spiritual threats employed to coerce and those who might halt between two opinions. We refer to the resolution of the Calvinistic Methodists of Arvon, passed at a meeting where seventy churches were represented, as a decisive answer to this accusation, as a conclusive negative to this calumny. Is this solemn contradiction a deliberate lie, perpetrated in a sacred building, and in the sight of God? Oh, but says a third—There is the "Book of Remembrance" which the Liverpool Welsh Reform Association prepared and published, with the audacious announcement that in it would be recorded the name of every Dissenter who voted for a Tory, and "that persons would be appointed in every neighbourhood to escort every one of such over the stiles and through the gates from chapel to church, with the following recommendation:—'As you consider that the Established Church is the best for others, it should suffice you.'" Well, the Liverpool Reform Association publicly repudiated the charge, and indignantly declared that they knew nothing whatever of the "Book of Remembrance," that, in fact, the so-called "proclamation" was a forgery. Are we to say to the committee of the association, "Gentlemen, your denial is a falsehood"? The Conservatives may, but nobody else will. They will hug the delusion because it is some small comfort for their irreparable losses. But, apart from the morality of the matter, it must be evident to men of common sense that no body of men would be so insane as to issue such a "proclamation"—no body of responsible men would commit such an impolitic act as in the remotest degree to connect themselves with such an outrageous, scandalous, and indictable offence as that. It is a manifest work of our unscrupulous enemy. It, and the story about arson and the fiction of the Dissenting "screw," come from the brains of those who, failing to apprehend how it is that Wales has shaken off the yoke of Toryism, how it is that Wales has commenced to work out its political salvation, measure the Liberals by their own yard, and conclude therefore that the electors of Denbigh, Cardiganshire, Carnarvonshire, Merionethshire, Anglesea, and other constituencies, are still only what the Tories have ever conceived them to be—slaves! We know better; but to the Tory mind, to which the love of perfect liberty for the people is a comparative stranger, the dawning freedom of Wales is an insoluble mystery.—*Shrewsbury Free Press.*

**MR. JUSTICE HAYES ON DRUNKENNESS.**—Mr. Justice Hayes, in charging the grand jury at the Liverpool assizes, on Wednesday, strongly recommended the Grand Jury to use all the influence which they possessed in their respective neighbourhoods and spheres to diminish the crime of drunkenness. The grand jury, on the conclusion of their labours on Saturday, made a presentment in favour of subjecting beerhouses to the same control as licensed public-houses are subjected to, and expressed "deep regret" that so large a proportion of the crime brought under their notice was occasioned by drunkenness. A similar course has been taken by the grand jury at Leeds.

**THE REFORM LEAGUE AND THE AMERICAN MINISTER.**—At the weekly meeting of the Reform League on Wednesday night, Mr. Beales defended that body from the charge of discourtesy in the matter of the abandoned banquet to the American Minister. He stated that the League had nothing whatever to do with the invitation which had been given to Mr. Johnson, and that they were never consulted by those who had started the idea. Mr. Beales added that whatever differences of opinion there might have been as to the desirability of giving Mr. Reverdy Johnson a banquet, the Reform League cordially concurred in the sentiments so warmly expressed by the United States' Minister for the speedy and amicable settlement of all questions in dispute between the two countries.

#### THE COUNTESS OF HUNTINGDON'S CONNEXION.

##### SUIT IN THE CHANCERY COURT.

The case of the Attorney-General v. Stroud, has occupied the Vice-Chancellor's Court (Sir John Stuart presiding) several days during the past week. The object of this suit was to compel the trustees of a deed executed in 1816 by James Oldham Oldham, a member of Lady Huntingdon's Connexion, to continue the payment to the Spa-fields Chapel School of a sixth of the rents of the property comprised in the deed, and which had been paid to the treasurer of the school from the date of the deed to 1865. Mr. Greene, Q.C., Mr. Eddis, and Mr. Bagshawe, who appeared in support of the information, commenced opening the case on Thursday, and continued it throughout Friday and Saturday. Mr. Greene, in the course of his address, gave a short history of the sect, which appears to have been as follows:—

Towards the end of the last century Selina, Countess Dowager of Huntingdon, who was then a member of the Church of England, and was a woman of strong religious feelings, being dissatisfied with the spiritual influence it then exerted, spent the greater portion of her income during the latter years of her life in the promotion of her own religious views; but it was said that she never would have left, or, as she expressed it, seceded from the Church of England, if she had not found that whenever she purchased a chapel the incumbent of the parish claimed a right to control the appointment of the minister. She then built a chapel in her own grounds, and attempted, in exercise of her privileges as a peeress, to appoint her own chaplain. This right was also contested, and, being afraid of the expense of an appeal to the House of Lords, she did not carry the matter before the tribunals, and ultimately she seceded. She then built and purchased chapels for religious worship in various parts of England, and appointed such persons as she thought proper to officiate as ministers in these chapels, and in any other chapels the congregations of which applied to her for the services of her ministers; all such ministers being appointed for such periods as she fixed. Usually the period fixed by her for a preacher to officiate in any one chapel was six weeks, after which the minister was removed to another chapel, and his place supplied by another minister of her own appointment. In order that her pulpits might be regularly supplied, the countess appointed a certain number of ministers chosen by herself, and whose appointment was revocable at her own pleasure, to preach from time to time in her chapels. These ministers were commonly denominated the ministers of the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion, but beyond her mere will and pleasure the only bond of union and foundation of connection among the ministers so appointed was the signature required from all to a creed consisting of Fifteen Articles of Belief, which, with slight exceptions, embodied the Thirty-nine Articles of the Church of England. While the countess lived she carefully retained all the power in her own hands, appointing, suspending, or revoking the appointment of ministers as she thought proper. The countess died in June, 1791, having previously made a will and several codicils, by which she gave and devised all her chapels, and all the residue of her estate, to four trustees; and after stating that the grand desire of her life had been the good of mankind and the spread and promotion of the Gospel of the Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ both abroad and at home, and that she had the most earnest desire and hope in her latest moments before and above all things that the same might be promoted by all possible means, and further that she knew that devices to charitable uses were contrary to law, she thereby declared the foregoing devise and bequest to be made by her freed and discharged from any such use, and that her trustees therein named, and their successors, should from time to time apply the proceeds of her real and personal estate to such purposes as they in their discretion should think proper, without any restriction, trust, or condition whatever, relying on the Almighty power and good grace of Jesus Christ, her God and Saviour, to dispose their hearts in all things which might tend most to His honour and glory and the real good of mankind by spreading and promoting His glorious and precious Gospel as well abroad as at home. The countess appointed her trustees executors of her will. By a codicil, bearing even date with the will, the countess requested that her children would approve and confirm the disposition she had made of her effects.

At the time of her death Lady Huntingdon had purchased eleven chapels, but there were besides some sixty chapels to which she recommended ministers, and two more chapels were purchased by the trustees after her death. The governing bodies of these chapels consisted of what were called members, the members being those who had communicated within a certain time. The members always adopted the Fifteen Articles, and required the minister to subscribe them; these Fifteen Articles being always appended to trust-deeds when the chapels were founded. The trustees of the deed of 1816, by which the property to which this suit relates was erected, were also trustees of a deed executed in 1807, by the trustees of Lady Huntingdon's will, in which Spa-fields Chapel itself was included. The chapel had long been the principal chapel of the Connexion, and the schools had been founded by the countess herself and Mr. Oldham in 1783, in connection with it. In 1842, on the expiration of the lease for which the chapel was held, the trustees of the deed of 1807 refused to renew it, on the ground that the chapel had ceased to be self-supporting. Upon this the congregation had, by subscription, renewed the lease themselves, the chapel still remaining, as the relators contended, a chapel in the Connexion. It continued, as before, to be enumerated in the published lists of the chapels of the Connexion, and was always served by a minister who subscribed the Fifteen Articles of Belief drawn up by Lady Huntingdon. The minister, the Rev. Thomas Elisha Thoresby, always attended the meetings of the conference, and has been twice its president. In 1857 the congregation again renewed the lease,



and vested the renewed lease in trustees upon trusts which secured the government of the chapel to its congregation, and that the doctrines preached in it should be Lady Huntingdon's Fifteen Articles. They had further obtained 200*l.* towards the repairs of the chapel from the London Congregational Chapel Building Society.

The defendants, who are the trustees of Lady Huntingdon's Connexion, contend that by the effect of these proceedings the chapel has ceased to belong to Lady Huntingdon's Connexion, and has become a Congregational chapel, and that the school has therefore lost its right to the funds in question. The schools had been originally held at 22, Rosoman-street, but were removed in 1833 to a house near the chapel, and in 1855 to another building adjoining the chapel, which was expressly built for their reception. The property was situated at Cobham-row, close to the Spaffelds Chapel, but has since the institution of the suit been purchased by the Middlesex magistrates for the enlargement of the House of Detention, and the purchase-money of the land in question is now represented by about 22,000*l.* stock.

Before the conclusion of Mr. Greene's argument, the Vice-Chancellor called on the counsel for the trustees (Mr. Druce, Q.C., Mr. Henry Matthews, Q.C., of the Common Law Bar, and Mr. Fry); but the case, which appears to have created considerable interest among the members of the Connexion, was not concluded when the Court rose.

#### LONDON CHARITIES AND PAUPERISM.

At the Society of Arts House on Thursday evening Lord Shaftesbury presided at a meeting, the primary object of which was to hear a paper by Dr. Hawkesley, containing suggestions for the improvement of the administration of the charities of London, and in the distribution of private and official charity generally. The meeting was held under the auspices of a new society, which has assumed the title of the London Association for the Prevention of Pauperism and Crime.

The Doctor adduced a series of statistics which went to show that, taking into account the money distributed by the various charitable institutions of London (about 4,000,000*l.*), the assistance realised by means of public and private benevolence, and the allowances given by the State, as much as 7,000,000*l.* was spent annually in London in dealing with the requirements of poverty. If one-eighth of the whole population, or 400,000 persons, were dependent on the other seven-eighths, the sum named would supply to each 17*l.* a head for every man, woman, and child, or to every family of five persons 85*l.* per annum, with 50,000*l.* to spare for the expenses of collection and distribution. During the last ten years the population of London had increased one-sixth; the pauper part of it had increased one-half. Of offenders and suspected persons known to the police and at large in London there were, in 1867, 8,964; and in 1868, 10,342. The discontinuance of transportation turned 2,000 convicts loose upon the community every year, in addition to 100,000 of all sorts from our gaols. In London there were 100,000 children destitute of proper guardianship, and exposed for the most part to the training of beggars and thieves. He doubted whether a parallel to this picture could be found out of the kingdom of Dahomey. He attributed this condition of things to erroneous method and want of organisation; and he proceeded to suggest a variety of remedies, the prominent features of which were the adoption of a combined system secured from abuse by registration, district visiting, &c.

On the conclusion of this elaborate paper the Rev. HENRY SOLLY read extracts from the evidence taken by the committee of the association, which showed the vast amount of imposition practised under the present system upon charitable institutions, and that there were existing in all parts of the metropolis bands of professional beggars organised for the express purpose of what they called "working the charities." The Rev. SEPTIMUS HANSARD considered the present state of pauperism and crime most alarming and disgraceful. He trusted the Legislature would make a thorough investigation into our poor-law system. Mr. John Ruskin, Dr. Stallard, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Forbes, Mr. Measor, Captain Maxse, and Mr. Fuller, also took part in the discussion.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY closed it by reminding the meeting of all that had been done by ragged-schools, whose children became prosperous and grateful colonists. He insisted that industrial training on an extensive scale would do most to undermine the pauperism of the metropolis. He also referred to the success of the training-ships, stating that shipowners inquired after boys who had been trained in them. In reference to the efficacy of industrial training as a preventive influence, he had once he said put the question to 100 thieves—what would be the effect if the great proportion of the children of London were educated? He had the answers of them all now in writing, and it amounted to this—it would knock up our profession. He agreed that drunkenness was a great source of crime; but what was the cause of drunkenness? The execrable homes of the people drove them to the public-house, and therefore he considered their first duty was to provide the poor with decent homes. It was not possible to combine all societies, for there could be no agreement among those based on religious distinctions; but it might be possible to effect unity as between all others devoted to the improvement of the mental, moral, and physical condition of the people.

With a vote of thanks to the Earl of Shaftesbury for presiding, the proceedings closed a little before eleven o'clock.

#### THE NEW MINISTRY.

Mr. George Otto Trevelyan has been appointed Junior Lord of the Admiralty.

Lord de Tabley will undertake the office of Controller of the Household. The Earl of Carysfort, Lord Camoys, and Lord Methuen, will be Lords in Waiting. Lord Torrington also remains in his old position at her Majesty's Court.

The new Treasury Board is gazetted. It consists of the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Stansfeld, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Mr. W. P. Adam, and Captain the Hon. J. C. Vivian. Lord Lansdowne will thus represent the Treasury in the House of Peers. Hitherto the board has comprised the Premier, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and three Junior Lords of the Treasury, with seats in the House of Commons.

The Marquis of Salisbury says there is not a vestige of foundation for the report that he is likely to become Governor-General of India in case of Lord Mayo's recall.

On Saturday, at Dublin, the Right Hon. James Anthony Lawson was sworn in before the Lord Chancellor as fourth Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. Mr. Sullivan, Q.C., was sworn in as Attorney, and Mr. Barry, Q.C., as Solicitor-General.

It appears that negotiations have failed for the purpose of inducing Lord Westbury to lend the aid of his great judicial talents to the Equity Bench as Lord Justice in the room of Lord Chancellor Hatherley. It is understood that Lord Cairns has since been invited to resume the place of Lord Justice which he quitted in order to become Lord Chancellor in Mr. Disraeli's Administration. His lordship's health, however, is very delicate, and his physicians have recommended a visit to Italy. There is little doubt but that Vice-Chancellor Giffard will now be elevated to the vacant office.

A Government scheme for the political utilisation of young peers is noted by the *Times*. The new Lords-in-Waiting will be affiliated, as it were, to the public offices which are not otherwise represented in the House of Lords, and will have to answer whatever questions may be asked with reference to the business of their respective departments. The new Premier is fortunate enough to have ready to his hand two young peers of much promise and ability—Lord Morley and Lord Camperdown. Nor is it only lords-in-waiting who are to be thus utilised. The Marquis of Lansdowne is to be made an extra Lord of the Treasury without salary. He is, in fact, to serve an unpaid apprenticeship to public business.

A very amusing and incredible story has been going the round of the papers relative to an alleged prolonged discussion which took place between Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright before the latter right hon. gentleman could be induced to take office. The *Manchester Examiner* states, "on good authority," that the story is altogether untrue.

OVEREND, GURNEY, AND COMPANY.—Action is about to be taken by a shareholder in Overend and Gurney against the directors of that company on a charge of conspiracy to defraud. A summons has been granted, and it is to be heard at the Mansion-house on the 1st of January.

MUNIFICENT BEQUESTS.—Mr. John Bairstow, of Preston, has just died at the ripe old age of ninety years. The history of his life is a remarkable one. Unaided by wealth, he gained for himself a high social position and a princely fortune, which, during his lifetime, with a bounteous hand, he distributed unsparingly to purposes of public utility. He was a contributor to every worthy object in his own town, and many powerful organisations in the centres of industry have been assisted in a substantial way by him. Among his numerous bequests after his decease are the following:—Preston and County of Lancaster Royal Infirmary, 20,000*l.*; Church Missionary Society, 3,000*l.*; Bible Society, 3,000*l.*; Moravian Missions, 2,000*l.*; Religious Tract Society, 1,000*l.*; Pastoral Aid Society, 8,000*l.*; Curates' Aid Society, 2,000*l.*; Irish Church Mission Society, 500*l.*; Christian Knowledge Society, 3,000*l.*; National Society for Promoting Religion among the Populations, 2,000*l.*; Deaf and Dumb Institution, Manchester, 500*l.*; Naval and Military Bible Society, 500*l.*; Manchester Diocesan Church Building Society, 8,000*l.*; Chester and Manchester Diocesan Board of Education, 1,000*l.*; Casterton Schools for the Education of the Daughters of the Clergy, 1,000*l.*; Medical and Benevolent College, London, 200*l.*; Kendal Clerical Charity, 200*l.* To the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty, to be applied to the endowment of the aftermentioned churches in Preston, he bequeathed the following sums:—All Saints, 2,000*l.*; Christ Church, 1,000*l.*; St. Luke's, 6,000*l.*; St. Mark's (for the completion of the tower), 1,000*l.*; and St. Saviour's, 1,000*l.* To the Northern Counties Asylum for Idiots, at Lancaster, he leaves 5,000*l.* Besides personal bequests, he has not forgotten the Preston Mechanics' Institution, Preston Temperance Society, Preston Orphan School, Preston Institute for the Blind, Bible Woman's Mission, Samaritan Society, the Associated Institute (London) for making grants to provide houses and board for people reduced in circumstances, Society for the Conversion of the Jews, Army Scripture-readers' Society, National Society for the Propagation of Church Principles, Priests' Protection Society, Colonial and Continental Church Building Society, Missions to Seamen, &c.

#### Court, Official, and Personal News.

On Thursday the Queen, accompanied by the Crown Prince and Princess of Prussia, Prince Leopold, and Princesses Louise and Beatrice, left Windsor Castle for Osborne, there to pass the Christmas.

The Prince of Wales arrived at Stockholm on Thursday night, and was received at the railway-station by the King and his Majesty's two brothers, who were accompanied by a numerous suite of the Court officials. The festivities in honour of the Prince's visit comprised a banquet at the Royal Palace on Thursday, and another banquet on Friday, with a State visit to the theatre. The royal couple have returned to Denmark.

Prince Arthur has been granted leave of absence from his military duties from the 19th of December, 1868, to the 2nd of January, 1869. He left Woolwich early on Monday morning.

The little Prince Theodore, of Abyssinia, is being brought up at a school at Bonchurch, in the Isle of Wight.

Sir Richard Mayne, though somewhat better, is still confined to his house. It is understood that, acting on the advice of his family and friends, he will shortly tender his resignation.

Amongst the notices of motion given in the House of Commons is one by Mr. Maguire for a committee to inquire into the estates of certain London companies, with a view to revoke their charters.

Sir William Snagg has been appointed Chief Justice of British Guiana; Mr. S. S. Bell Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Cape of Good Hope; and Mr. C. T. Smith a Puisne Judge in the same court.

#### Postscript.

Wednesday, December 23, 1868.

A Cabinet Council was held yesterday at the Foreign-office.

RE-ELECTION OF THE MINISTER FOR WAR.—Mr. Cardwell was re-elected without opposition yesterday for the city of Oxford, on his acceptance of office as Secretary for War. The right hon. gentleman stated that although it had been impossible for him to examine the various details of expenditure, the public would find that in the estimates for the ensuing year evidence of a substantial reduction would exist. At the same time he warned his hearers that the object of retrenchment was not to be obtained in a single year. Mr. Cardwell then spoke of the importance of doing justice to Ireland; and with respect to the ballot, he wished to see freedom of election, preferring to think that in this free country every man could give his vote and fear not for the consequences.

WAREHAM ELECTION.—The first contest since the close of the general election took place yesterday at Wareham, and resulted in the return of Mr. Drax, the Conservative candidate, by a majority of sixty-six over Mr. Calcraft, the brother of the late member.

It appears to have been settled that Vice-Chancellor Sir G. M. Giffard is to be the new Lord Justice of Appeal in Chancery, in succession to the present Lord Chancellor. His Lordship will be succeeded by Mr. W. H. James, Q.C., Vice-Chancellor of the County Palatine of Lancaster.

A destructive storm swept over the north of Scotland on Monday night. The whole of the seaward staging and the stone work executed in the Wick new harbour during the year was carried away.

A telegram from Constantinople brings the rumour that the period originally allowed for the departure of Greek subjects from Turkey has been extended from fifteen to thirty days. The same despatch says that Hobart Pasha is blockading Syria with seven vessels, and that, according to the *Turquie*, Greece is making considerable preparations for war. The *Paris Etandard* denies that the representatives of England, France, and Austria at Constantinople have refused to take the Greek subjects in Turkey under their control, and says they have received no request to that effect.

A letter from Rome in the *Paris Liberte* states that Ajani and his companion, who have just been condemned to death by the Papal Government, are likely to receive a commutation of their sentence.

#### MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

The quantity of home-grown wheat received fresh up to Mark-lane this morning was only moderate. As regards values, the market presented a firm appearance, but the actual amount of business concluded was limited. The show of foreign wheat was tolerably good. With a moderate attendance of millers, sales progressed quietly, at about late rates. Floating cargoes of wheat were in moderate request. Other articles afloat were held with more firmness. Moderate supplies of barley were on sale. The trade was firm, and the late advance was supported.

ARRIVALS THIS WEEK.				
Wheat.	Barley.	Malt.	Oats.	Flour
English & Scotch 1,790	330	800	—	730
Irish .....	—	—	930	—
Foreign .....	6,570	6,940	10,320	4,100 bks.
				100 bbs.
				Maize, 2,300 qrs.

VOTE BY BALLOT.—The following notice appears in the Votes and Proceedings of the House of Commons:—"Sir H. Bulwer,—To move a resolution in favour of adopting vote by ballot for the future election of members of Parliament." Mr. Berkeley writes to a Bristol paper as follows:—"The notice which Sir Henry Lytton Bulwer has placed on the books of the House of Commons on the subject of the ballot in no way affects my annual motion, and is perfectly in accordance with my view."



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## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"J. M." Bradford. Next week.

# The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1868.

## SUMMARY.

It is possible that, under the influence of somewhat depressing weather, people may be less disposed than usual to take a cheerful view of the present Christmas season. But if there is much to regret, there is much also to be thankful for. The general trade of the country is sound, if it has not recovered elasticity so speedily as might have been wished. Though the thermometer may range as high as fifty degrees, the rains descend, the gales blow, and Christmas characteristics are this year a mere tradition, the low temperature and high winds favour the general health, and the bills of mortality are exceptionally satisfactory. Probably the distress in London is quite as extensive as is customary at this season, owing greatly to the decline of certain river-side trades; but the new President of the Poor-law Board has already discovered that, spite of—some say, in consequence of—abounding charity and less stringent tests, 50,000 persons have been added to the roll of paupers during the past two years, and the cotton manufacture of Lancashire is in so depressed a condition that half-time has been adopted in a large number of factories, and will perhaps extend over the district. The recent excellent harvest has, however, kept down the price of bread, and probably the comforts of life will, on the whole, be as widely enjoyed throughout the country as is usual at this festive season of the year.

All the Ministers of the Crown who vacated their seats have been re-elected without opposition, but the Postmaster-General (the Marquis of Hartington), and the Home Secretary (Mr. Bruce), have yet to be provided with seats. At the return of Mr. Cardwell, the new Secretary for War, at Oxford yesterday, Mr. Vernon Harcourt remarked that "there never was a Government of which the country formed such high and such just expectations; there never was a Government which, in the confidence of the Sovereign and in the support of the people, had such enormous power for effecting that which should be for the national advantage." That the members of the new Ministry are anxious to justify the confidence of the country, may be gathered from the candid and earnest speeches delivered by its several members from the hustings on Monday. The Premier led the way by declaring that "the idea that has governed the formation of the present Administration has been to place able and upright men in charge of the public purse—men of administrative experience, men of proved ability, men, lastly, holding their seats in the House of Commons, and, therefore, immediately responsible to the representatives of the people"; and by expressing his confidence that some of the results of their opening labours would be perceived in next year's estimates. Mr. Gladstone promises that the Reform Bill shall be amended; but the country must wait awhile. His immediate purpose is twofold—to reorganise the departments with a view to greater efficiency and retrenchment, and to deal zealously with the Irish State-Church, and subsequently with the Irish land question.

All the re-election speeches, with scarcely an exception, strengthen the conviction that the Prime Minister has made a wise and sagacious choice of his colleagues. Mr. Childers frankly

explained his purposes in respect to Admiralty reform, and his belief that by the new plans contemplated he will be able to secure "a strong navy" while its cost is materially reduced. Mr. Cardwell, whose task is more onerous—having to cope with Horse Guards' antagonism—promises the co-operation of the War Office in effecting steadily and rapidly such a revision of the public expenditure as may bring about results with which the country will be hereafter satisfied. He will be supported by Captain Vivian, whose special business will be to exercise a general control under his chief over the financial administration of military affairs. The new War Lord of the Treasury tells his constituents:—"I am to watch the estimates, to watch the accounts, and to diminish both one and the other if I possibly can"; and he reasonably thinks that out of fifteen millions a year something may be saved. Mr. Stansfeld will exercise the same functions at the Treasury in respect to the civil service estimates, and enters zealously upon his new duties as guardian of the public purse. Though the new Chancellor of the Exchequer jocosely parades the unpopularity of his office, Mr. Lowe is no doubt inwardly assured that, at the proper time, he will be able, by the aid of Mr. Gladstone and his subordinates, to produce a satisfactory, if not a popular, budget.

The speech of Mr. Bright on his re-election at Birmingham was a charming chapter of autobiography. The President of the Board of Trade informed his constituents that he took office "with the cordial and gracious acquiescence of the Queen." Though the right hon. gentleman has a keen sense of his obligations to the Government of which he is a member, and has come out in "a new character," he tells his supporters that he has no intention "of getting rid of his old one"—believing that the time has at length arrived, "when a man may, perhaps without difficulty, act as an honest Minister of the Crown, and at the same time as an honest and devoted servant and counsellor of the people." Mr. Bright fairly asks that himself and his colleagues may be judged not so much by single votes as by the result of the year's legislation. He still hopes that by a reduction of "the gross and scandalous expenditure of the country" his "free breakfast-table" project may one day be realised, and Mr. Bright has done a public service by demanding a reform of the method of conducting elections. He would, at the least, dispense with public nominations, and close the public-houses on the days of polling. The right hon. gentleman still speaks with his accustomed freedom and purpose. Some of his new colleagues have been equally unreserved. One of them, after denouncing the "folly of bloated armaments," went on to say, "For the arbitrament of war they might substitute an understanding that, while they should not interfere in the domestic affairs of other nations, all differences which might arise between nation and nation should be referred to the arbitration of a Peace Congress. When that day came—and he would repeat his belief that it would come—instead of spending twenty-six millions a year in military armaments, we should be able to reduce our military establishments to a peace footing, and bring down the expenditure to something like ten millions per annum." We quote these sentiments as a significant sign of the times. They do not emanate from Mr. Bright, nor from Mr. Richard, the member for Merthyr, but they are the spontaneous expressions of the new War Lord of the Treasury before his constituents at Truro!

Though a change of Ministry in France has not the same significance as on this side of the Channel, it is not without importance. The Emperor retains M. Rouher, who exercises somewhat of the authority of a Prime Minister under his autocratic master, but has dismissed M. Pinard, who has been famous for getting into scrapes, and replaced the Marquis de Moustier at the Foreign Office by the Marquis de Lavalette, whose views are notoriously pacific, as well as favourable to Italy. The change is all the more welcome after the disclosure made by Count Bismarck in the Prussian Chambers last week, that, but for the Spanish Revolution, war would probably have broken out in the autumn. Now, we conclude, the Empire is to be Peace. The Emperor has made M. de la Roquette Minister of the Interior, and has taken his successor, M. Gressier, who presides over Commerce and Agriculture, from the Legislative Chamber—a kind of concession to Parliamentary government. Probably, in anticipation of a general election, the Imperial régime in France will become milder. It is expected that the new Home Minister will be more amenable to M. Rouher than M. Pinard, his predecessor, who threatens to go into opposition.

The abortive insurrection at Cadiz seems to

have strengthened the hands of the Provisional Government of Spain. During the past week the municipal elections have been quietly proceeding, and have gone almost entirely in favour of the Democratic-Monarchical party. There is little doubt that the elections for the Constituent Cortes will be of the same complexion. But who is to occupy the vacant throne? No doubt General Prim and his colleagues are quietly making their arrangements, and if we may conclude anything from the tone of an influential Madrid newspaper, their choice is likely to fall on the Duke of Montpensier, who married the sister of the ex-Queen Isabella.

The American correspondent of the *Times* expresses his fear that the Alabama claims controversy may "again become troublesome." "The new phase of affairs resulting from the American refusal to accept the protocol as agreed upon by Lord Stanley and Mr. Reverdy Johnson, and the delay necessarily arising from a change in the British Foreign Office, will (the writer thinks) postpone matters long enough to get a new Administration into power in the United States. This new Government will view the Alabama controversy, and the entire attitude of Great Britain towards the South during the war, in a very different light from the present Administration, will make greater demands, and will assume a much haughtier tone." It is thought in America that Lord Clarendon will hesitate to confirm Lord Stanley's concessions; but no one in England, with Mr. Gladstone as Premier and Mr. Bright in the Cabinet, can share these fears.

## THE MINISTERIAL RE-ELECTIONS.

ALL the members of the new Administration who by their acceptance of office under the Crown vacated their seats in the House of Commons, have been re-elected without opposition—those only excepted who sat for counties, or for some Irish or Scotch constituency, against whose return the time for presenting petitions had not expired, and for the refilling of whose seats writs will not be moved till next week. The statute of Anne requiring the confirmation of the choice of the Crown by the constituencies of members selected for administrative functions, has not, therefore, in the present instance, operated obstructively. To say the truth, it seldom does. It is nevertheless in these times, whatever it may have been in days gone by, the occasion of purely gratuitous annoyance. It is no efficient guarantee against an unwise selection of Ministers by the Crown, and its tendency is to limit the area within which its choice must be exercised. It is one of those constitutional safeguards which has outlived the state of things to which it was adapted, but which a stupid, that is an unreasoning Conservatism, is unwilling to surrender, on the ground, we suppose, that whatever is must continue to be. Our guardians of lumber will part with nothing which, besides being useless, happens to be old. The late Parliament had a fair opportunity of putting an end to an arrangement which can only be regarded as an inconvenient farce—but for some reason best known to itself declined to avail itself of the occasion.

An incidental benefit has come out of the recent re-elections. They have not, it is true, thrown much new light, if any, upon the policy of the Gladstone Cabinet. They have not given the public any glimpse of the actual measures to be laid before Parliament next Session. How could they? The Administration has only been just completed. But one Cabinet Council has yet been held. Nothing beyond the barest outline of the course to be pursued can have been discussed, much less settled. We all took for granted that the legislative disendowment and disestablishment of the Irish Church, together with the collateral measures which will deal with the Maynooth grant and the Presbyterian *Regium Donum*, would supply the *pièce de résistance* of Parliamentary fare next year. We had good reason to expect that the estimates for the financial year 1869-70, would be framed with an earnest desire to diminish our enormous public expenditure. We were already in possession of trustworthy pledges that, as occasion might allow, the questions of education in all its branches, of legal reforms—especially in relation to bankruptcy, of getting rid of anomalies and deficiencies in the late Reform Acts, of placing labour and capital upon a more equitable footing of mutual relationship, and some others of equal urgency, would pass under Parliamentary review in the light of Liberal principles. We had all this from the mouth of the now Prime Minister during his electoral struggle in South-West Lancashire. Scarcely a month has passed over our heads since then, and nothing has meanwhile occurred to add to, or diminish from, the weight of those questions.



The only difference is in the position of the men who now present themselves afresh to their several constituencies—and the special interest with which we have listened to their recent speeches arises from the desire we have to note, what variance, if any, there is discoverable between what they said when out of office, and what they thought fit to say on their official responsibility.

We congratulate the country very unreservedly and very heartily on the spirit and tone by which these Ministerial election harangues have been, almost without exception, characterised. There was a ring of sincerity in them which—to use a hacknied but exhaustive phrase—"left nothing to be desired." After carefully going through the reports of their speeches at the hustings on re-election, the abiding impression left upon our mind was—these men are bent upon faithfully redeeming, as far as practicable, all the promises they have made. We say "as far as practicable," because each of them unhesitatingly recognised the fact that in accepting office he had parted with some of the freedom of his individuality, and was bound to act in concert with his colleagues. Among many felicitous expressions, and much graceful eloquence, which these second elections have called forth, there are no "fine phrases." We cannot put our finger upon a single instance of clap-trap. There were reserves, of course, but nothing wearing the semblance of ambiguity. Her Majesty's Ministers, each and all, spoke as only those men speak who mean business. There was a frankness, a steadiness, a gravity in their words and demeanour, indicative of honest intentions to serve their country, and of a deep sense of responsibility incurred. On the whole, from a review of Monday's electoral proceedings, it is impossible to feel otherwise than satisfied that we have at length a Government as fully qualified as it is conscientiously disposed, to give effect to the ascertained will of the country.

To Mr. Gladstone's speech at Blackheath, foremost attention will be given. That he should have spent no scanty portion of his oratory in graceful outpourings of his feelings of indebtedness to his Greenwich constituents, was what might have been anticipated as called for by the occasion. The right hon. gentleman, however, did not restrict himself to complimentary effusions. He ran over, with a light and bounding step, it is true, but without any seeming desire to conceal or abridge the extent of his engagements, the whole political programme with which he has made his countrymen so familiar. If anything, he committed himself to fresh obligations. Electors must be secure of perfect freedom, he said, in the exercise of the franchise—he had always been in favour of open-voting—he was so still—but, open voting or otherwise, free voting must be secured. These words intimate that to Mr. Gladstone's far-searching eye the Ballot looms on the political horizon.

Mr. Bright's speech at Birmingham was charming in its simplicity. The unaffected revelation of the motives by which he had been influenced in consenting to become a Minister of the Crown, of his reasons for choosing the department over which he presides rather the higher and more onerous one which controls the government of India, of the deficiencies of which he was conscious, and of the resolutions by which he would be guided, will probably give the public a novel and corrected view of the right hon. member's character. To us it is no fresh discovery. Years ago we were well aware that under similar circumstances Mr. Bright would have made a similar disclosure. His ambition differs widely from that of many statesmen who have not achieved a tithe of his success. It is not to climb into high place, but to achieve great things. To the work he has in hand he assigns the first place in importance and honour—to himself, in comparison, a very subordinate but self-respecting one. It has been predicted that he will be intractable in council. Yes, if shams are to be the subjects of deliberation, otherwise we venture to foretell that wherever serious work has to be got through, Mr. Bright is more likely to prove a bond of unity than a cause of dissension.

Of the other Ministers we need say little, and therein we shall but imitate their own good taste. Each of them spoke chiefly in reference to his own department, but, as we have said, there ran through the utterances of every one of them a spirit of sobriety and a force of purpose which give a pleasing augury of administrative fitness and fidelity. We have a higher opinion of the Ministerial corps since their appearance before their respective constituencies than we done before. It is not always that the better features of men's political character stand out in relief upon the back-ground of election ceremonies. In the case of the officers of the Gladstone Administration we think they

have done. They will deservedly receive the congratulations of their friends—and then—well, the coming Session will show of what stuff they are, and what has been their work:

#### TURKEY AND GREECE.

It is difficult to write of Greece—the Greece of our own day, we mean—with common patience; it is not easy to get up much sympathy for Turkey. Lord Palmerston, we believe, was the last of British statesmen, unless Mr. Layard is entitled to a place in that category, who had faith in the virility of the Ottoman empire in Europe. The noble lord inherited the traditions of the Foreign Office on that subject, and, until the war in the Crimea, so, we must admit, did the majority of political men in this country. The utter failure of that war, so far at least as it was meant to subserve the integrity and independence of the Porte, has opened the eyes of most men to the essential unsoundness of the policy which made that miserably governed land the pivot on which turned "the balance of power." The Turk must vanish from the scene—that is clear to every eye. No protection—not even the protection of the great Powers—can finally revive a nation which has the seeds of inevitable decay within itself. Whether their good offices, prompted by jealousies one of another, will prolong the existence, or hasten the dissolution, of the decaying empire, is a question admitting of grave discussion—but, at any rate, the influence which, willingly or unwillingly, they have exercised over it of late, has had a most damaging effect upon its internal condition.

We cannot help hoping that the rupture of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Greece may bring about a political necessity of leaving the quarrel to right itself. We are not among those who throw ridicule upon the "grand idea" of the Greeks. It is a natural one—it has evidently a deep hold on the Hellenic race, wherever the members of it may be located—it fires their patriotism—it nerves their courage—and it is not impossible that it may one day become condensed into a fact. What we cannot, however, regard with complacency is the method by which the Greeks seek to realise their idea. In the pursuit of it they appear to consider themselves justified in disregarding all national duties, all international obligations, all the principles and rules of common morality. They take advantage of the protectorate under which they live to set at nought every consideration which their condition should commend to them, and use the very depth of their indebtedness as an argument for continuing to squander their insufficient means without scruple. The conduct of the Government at Athens to that at Constantinople has been so provokingly and audaciously offensive, that it is hard to see how the protecting Powers can agree to shelter it from just retribution. It no doubt instigated the Cretan insurrection, with the hope of obtaining the annexation of Crete to the Hellenic Kingdom. It has all along fed that insurrection with arms and men, withdrawing from within its range the wounded and the sick, women and children. Neglecting all that a government should attend to at home—the development of domestic resources, the husbanding of its scanty finances, the security of person and property, and the just administration of law—it has recklessly wasted its means upon an ambitious and mischievous external policy, which it dignifies by the name of the "grand idea." The Turk is the *corpus vile*, upon which it persists in trying its offensive experiments—stirring up discontent here, and insurrection there—ever keeping the Porte on the tenter-hooks, and flinging menace in its face, because assured of its own impunity.

Matters have at length come to a pass that will probably test the pretensions of this petty kingdom. The apathetic Turk will endure these mortifying affronts no longer—and Greece has so obviously, so glaringly put herself in the wrong, that her patrons will possibly leave her to meet single-handed the chastisement she has jeeringly courted. She needs a taste of actual international responsibility. She would involve Europe in the flames of war, if Europe were insane enough to allow her. The best thing, perhaps, for both Turkey and Greece, would be to let them settle their dispute in their own way. We hope, from what fell from the noble lord, the member for Lynn, on the occasion of his election, that the policy of the United Kingdom will be a policy of non-intervention, as elsewhere, so in the affairs of the East. We have "meddled and muddled" enough in that part of the world. Let the great continental Powers do as they list. Neither of them will be disposed to let any other get too exclusive a hold upon the inheritance of "the sick man."

If the Hellenes are competent to clear the ground which was once theirs of the intrusive and obstructive Asiatic, let them try it, and abide by the issue. If not, let them not be allowed, under protection, to throw fiery missiles into their neighbours' dwelling. The present British Government, we have full confidence, will neither guarantee the integrity of the Ottoman empire, nor abet Greece in her persistent violations of international law.

#### PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S LEGACY.

THE full text of President Johnson's Message to Congress has been published. It proves to be, to a great extent, more ill-advised and censorious than the telegraphic summary had indicated. Some portions of his Message seem to be the mere ebullition of spite and disappointment. After an impeachment in which he narrowly escaped condemnation, after a Presidential election which clearly expressed the national will as hostile to his retrogressive ideas, Mr. Johnson, bereft of all moral influence, and almost in the act of vacating his office, has thought fit to renew his protest against the legislation he was impotent to arrest, and to denounce as pernicious and revolutionary that policy of reconstruction to which the nation has in the exercise of its constitutional rights given its substantial sanction. Like the Bourbons, the President has learned nothing and forgotten nothing. We cannot wonder at the contempt and impatience excited in Congress by his unbecoming diatribes, or at the low estimate that is formed of a chief magistrate who, though professing to adhere to the letter of the constitution, sets at naught by his acts the principles on which the American Republic is founded, and in his obstinate pedantry coolly ignores the great revolution which has passed over his country.

But Mr. Johnson's Message has its uses. If he indulges in useless jeremiads, he also gives some needful warnings. Whatever his motives, he declines to make things pleasant, and assumes the garb of the "candid friend" of his countrymen. The truths he utters are not likely to be patiently listened to because they emanate from a discredited public man, and are manifestly paraded for party purposes. But though Mr. Johnson exhibits a grim pleasure in presenting, if not magnifying, the difficulties that have sprung out of a policy he never heartily adopted, and practically repudiated when called as President to give it effect, we may conclude that his statements are substantially correct. Refusing to admit that the three years' civil war brought about a political revolution, he is yet eager enough to exaggerate the change it has effected in the position, importance, and cost of the central government. He calls the attention of an impatient Congress "to the state of the Union, and to its continued disorganised condition under the various laws which have been passed upon the subject of reconstruction," and conjures up a terrible picture of the financial burdens which the civil war, and subsequent legislation, have entailed on the Commonwealth. According to Mr. Johnson's showing, in 1860, the year preceding the outbreak of the Southern rebellion, the annual expenditure of the Federal Government was some 12,800,000*l.* sterling. At the present moment—four years after the cessation of the strife—it is estimated to amount to about 74,400,000*l.* At the former period taxation for general purposes was at the rate of eight shillings per head of the population, now it amounts to nearly forty shillings per head! For the four years succeeding the civil war, the expenditure was "nearly as much as was expended during the seventy-two years preceding the rebellion"; but then the President does not discriminate between necessary and unnecessary outlay, between burdens entailed by the war, and those gratuitously created. His object was to put the worst possible aspect on the financial condition of the Union, in order to usher in his nostrum for dealing with the public debt "which has accumulated with such alarming rapidity and assumed such colossal proportions."

It would be superfluous to comment on the notable scheme of President Johnson for extinguishing the public debt of the American people. He assumes "that the holders of our securities have already received upon their bonds a larger amount than their original investment, measured by a gold standard. Upon this statement of facts it would seem but just and equitable that the six per cent. interest now paid by the Government should be applied to the reduction of the principal in semi-annual instalments, which in sixteen years and eight months would liquidate the entire National debt." The plan thus roughly sketched, which is quite in harmony with the Democratic sympathies of its author, has fallen



stillborn from the Message in which it was propounded. It was denounced by the chairman of Ways and Means as "a most gross, shameless, infamous proposition to repudiate the debt of the country," and was subsequently met by a resolution of the House of Representatives (carried by 154 to 6), declaring "that all forms and degrees of repudiation of the national indebtedness are odious to the American people, and that under no circumstances will their representatives consent to offer the public creditor as full compensation a less amount of money than that which the Government contracted to pay him." This is explicit and conclusive, and we are well assured that in this matter Congress faithfully represents the people of the Union.

If, however, Mr. Johnson's dishonest suggestion is unworthy of serious attention, the facts which he makes the basis of his proposal cannot be ignored. The actual debt of the United States on the 1st of November was somewhat over 500 millions sterling, entailing interest to the amount of thirty millions per annum. This is considerably more than the interest on our national debt of 800 millions. Though the army has been reduced to 43,000, its cost is estimated for the present year, including, we suppose, dead weight, in the shape of pensions, &c., at about thirteen millions. The navy has undergone a much greater reduction, and its cost during the ensuing year is put down at something over four millions. Thus for the public debt alone and the requirements of national defence there is a permanent national expenditure of forty-seven millions, and the expectation that the expense of the central Government, £74,400,000, will be quickly and largely reduced, does not appear to be hopeful. It is further to be remarked, that local taxation in the Union is, for the most part, very heavy, including the entire machinery of State Governments, the school system, and other considerable burdens. Altogether, the citizens of the American Republic are just now as heavily taxed as those of almost any country in the Old World.

Mr. Johnson, therefore, acts a proper part in calling public attention to the grave financial difficulties of the Union, and in urging "the necessity of retrenchment in all branches of the public services." "Abuses which were tolerated during the war for the preservation of the nation will not," he says, "be endured by the people now that profound peace prevails. The receipts from internal revenues and customs have during the past three years gradually diminished, and the continuance of useless and extravagant expenditure will involve us in national bankruptcy, or else make inevitable an increase of taxes, already too onerous and in many respects obnoxious, on account of their inquisitorial character. Our commerce, which at one time successfully rivalled that of the great maritime Powers, has rapidly diminished, and our industrial interests are in a depressed and languishing condition. The development of our inexhaustible resources is checked, and the fertile fields of the South are becoming waste for want of means to till them." And he properly adds, that "judicious legislation and prudent economy can alone remedy defects and avert evils which, if suffered to exist, cannot fail to diminish confidence in the public councils and weaken the attachment and respect of the people towards their political institutions." Like all rash men, the President is panic-stricken at the prospect, and would begin to apply the remedy by dishonestly relieving the people at the expense of the holders of national securities. And though his proposal has been scouted by Congress, the financial problem remains to be solved.

General Grant and his Executive have before them no easy task. It is one which will tax to the utmost the statesmanlike capacity that exists amongst them. The United States has paid dearly for the preservation of the national unity. They cannot easily retrace their steps to economical government. In the exhausting struggle of the rebellion a host of vested interests were created which it will be almost impossible to overthrow, and new social conditions evolved, which will make the country a dear one to live in, and thus retard the increase of the population by immigration. These national drawbacks will not be without some compensations. They will confirm the Union in a pacific policy, check all tendencies to filibustering, and discredit the Monroe doctrine. America has pretty nearly reached the maximum of taxation, and its free population will have seriously to consider expedients for making the revenue more productive, as well as checking Government extravagance. Free Trade principles will now stand a better chance of acceptance, and such a settlement of Southern affairs as will conduce to the union and prosperity of the several members of the Republic.

The growth of the great American Commonwealth must needs be slower than heretofore, but with a population of forty millions, uncommon self-reliance, energy, and inventiveness, millions of acres of waste lands to be sold and settled, and inexhaustible natural resources, there is no fear that the United States will be unable to surmount present difficulties. By degrees, and by legitimate means, the incubus of her national debt will be mitigated, if not removed, and self-interest will bring about a retrenchment of expenditure and a reduction of the heavy public burdens which now press upon the national energies.

## Foreign and Colonial.

### FRANCE.

The Marquis de Lavalette has been appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, replacing the Marquis de Moustier, whose resignation has been accepted. Also M. Forcade de la Roquette has been appointed Minister of the Interior, in place of M. Pinard and M. Gressier, Minister of Agriculture. The Marquis de Moustier has been made a senator. M. Pinard was also offered the same honour but declined it. He is by general consent an able and well-meaning man, but, like other able and well-meaning persons, is somewhat impracticable; his acts do not correspond to his intentions, which are excellent; and, what is unfortunate for a Minister, he was constantly getting into scrapes such as the Baudin subscription affair, which a little tact would have enabled him to avoid. It is rumoured that he will enter the Chambers an "independent" member.

Of the new Foreign Minister the *Times* correspondent says:—

He has been the partisan of the principle of "nationalities," but is, nevertheless, or has been, in favour of the maintenance of the integrity of the Ottoman Empire. When M. Drouyn de Lhuys resigned the Foreign Department, two years ago, and M. de Lavalette held it temporarily until the return of M. de Moustier from Constantinople, it was he who issued the well-known circular in which the Government expressed its satisfaction at the results of the Prussian campaign against Austria. His appointment to the Foreign Office is, therefore, considered as an additional symptom in favour of a peace policy, unless he has completely changed his opinion since 1866. As regards Italy, he has been a partisan of unity, and no supporter of the temporal Papacy. M. Forcade de la Roquette has been an earnest supporter of a Liberal commercial policy, and is proud of belonging to the school of Cobden and Gladstone.

The appointment of the new Minister of Commerce looks like an approach to Parliamentary practice—

M. Gressier is a member of the Legislative Chamber, a Liberal Conservative, an excellent man of business, a good speaker, and his practical experience in all that relates to finance and commerce, as repeatedly proved, eminently fits him for the post he is called to fill. He is the first instance since the Empire of a member of the representative Chamber hitherto totally unconnected with the Government named to a place in the Cabinet. M. Billault was, it is true, a deputy when he became Minister, but he had been also President of the Chamber, and the President is named by the Emperor, and he was succeeded in the Presidency by M. de Moray. M. Gressier has been a deputy, and nothing more. He was remarked last session for taking the lead in vigorously supporting the amendments of the Commission on the Army Bill, against the Opposition, and against the Minister of War. His appointment is, on the whole, satisfactory.

The health of the Marquis de Moustier has become very precarious.

One Government and one Opposition candidate have been returned for the department of La Manche, viz., M. Ouvray and M. Louvel.

### GERMANY.

Count von Bismark has admitted that war was very near at hand in the autumn. He was proposing a bill to sequester the property of the ex-Elector of Hesse Cassel, who, he said, grew more hostile as war seemed nearer. "I must here say there was a time in the autumn when peace appeared anything but secure. The misgivings of the public were not without foundation." Those apprehensions were removed "by an event,"—the revolution in Spain, which, "being unexpected, has exercised considerable influence on the course of European affairs."

On Friday the Upper House discussed the resolution carried by Herr Guerard in the Lower House, for guaranteeing unconditional freedom of speech in the latter Chamber by amending Art. 84 of the Constitution. In the preliminary debate which took place the motion was disapproved, and to-day, when it again came on for discussion, it was finally thrown out by 72 votes against 41.

The North German Federal Council has agreed to a resolution for suppressing the consulates of the separate Federal States in countries where a Federal consulate has been established. The Council has also approved the treaty with Belgium for the extradition of criminals.

### AUSTRIA.

There is no denying, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, Count Beust's high-spirited attitude towards the Roman Court. Rumours had most assiduously been spread regarding certain overtures which Count Trautmannsdorf, the Austrian envoy, was said to have made at the Vatican regarding a partial and secret restoration of portions of the Concordat, more especially as to marriages by registrars, &c.; the fact being that Falcinelli, the Roman envoy, had taken certain

steps in that direction at the Hofburg, which is quite another view of the case. He is said to have solicited some basis for a better understanding between Austria and Rome, and to have begged the authorities to fix some kind of limit for State interference in matters purely clerical. He wanted some *modus vivendi* for the Church in the face of the continued encroachments on the part of the State. This step on the part of the Nuncio seems to have elicited a reply somewhat different from the one expected. Two new measures will forthwith be submitted to the Chamber and communicated, when passed, to the Pope; the first extending secular authority over the bishops, who had hitherto been responsible only to the clerical authorities, and the other making the civil marriage general and compulsory instead of voluntary, in order to remove any odium that might be cast by clerical functionaries on such as had hitherto formed these exceptions.

### ITALY.

At Thursday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies at Florence, General Menabrea agreed to the reception of a petition, signed by Roman emigrants, and presented to the House by Signor Piacini, on behalf of Ajano and Luzzi, condemned to death at Rome. General Menabrea at the same time stated that the Italian Government would use every possible exertion to obtain a remission of the sentence.

At the sitting of the Chamber on Monday, General Menabrea energetically opposed a proposition that the payment of the Italian quota of the Pontifical debt should be suspended. The Pontifical debt, he declared, was not to be confounded with the Roman question. Count Cambray-Digny denied that the Government paid the Pontifical debt through the intermediary of France, and said that the payment was made direct to their creditors through Messrs. Rothschild. Signor Rattazzi defended the suspension of the payment. Finally the proposal of the committee was rejected by 211 votes against 111. The Chamber then adjourned till the 12th of January.

Numerous municipal deputations are daily arriving at Florence from the most distant parts of Sicily to present loyal addresses to Prince Humbert and Princess Marguerite. On Friday their Royal Highnesses received sixty of these deputations.

The tribunal of the Sacra Consulta will decide, after Christmas, upon the appeal of Ajani and Luzzi. Great sympathy is felt for these two insurgents. They are of the same age, each being in his sixty-eighth year, and the same position in life, belonging to the upper class of shopkeepers, and they both bear a character above reproach. There can be no doubt that their execution will shake the whole of Italy, and the Pope may yet be refused to be dragged by Cardinal Antonelli into the abyss which such a step would open at his feet.

General Della Rocca has arrived from Florence as a special envoy from King Victor Emmanuel, to intercede on behalf of the condemned men. He has been received by the Pope and Cardinal Antonelli.

The Pope held a secret consistory at the Vatican on Monday, at which his Holiness nominated ten archbishops and bishops, six of them in *partibus infidelium*. He afterwards spoke upon the events in Spain, and deplored the many evils suffered there by the Church, mentioning particularly the danger threatening the unity of the faith, which had ever formed the chief glory of that Catholic nation.

### SPAIN.

The municipal elections have terminated. In Madrid, a large majority of the councillors elected belong to the Democratic-Monarchical party. Some slight disturbances of a trivial character occurred in one or two places, but in every case the local authorities were able to preserve the peace. The monarchical and constitutional candidates have in nearly every instance obtained large majorities.

The official paper contains a report from the Civil Governor of Cadiz, relative to the late disturbances in that town and at Puerto Santa Maria, and which are attributed to some members of the Republican party. The Cadiz municipality urges upon the Government to forget what has taken place, declaring at the same time that the vast majority of the citizens desire the maintenance of order and liberty. A perfect agreement exists among all parties, including the Republicans, to await and respect whatever decision the Cortes may arrive at for the solution of the situation. The suppression of the insurrection at Cadiz has considerably strengthened the hands of the Government, and has dissipated the alarms which prevailed last week.

It is now thought that the Government will favour the candidature of the Duke of Montpensier for the vacant throne. His claims are strongly advocated by the *Correspondencia*, one of the most influential newspapers of Madrid.

Colonel Valle Miramon, a Carlist emissary detected as bearer of Republican proclamations, has been arrested at Medini Sidonia, where some disturbances have recently taken place.

Satisfactory news from Havana has been received by the Government. Six thousand men have left for Cuba, and the Government declares its intention of sending as large a force as may be required to preserve order. It is officially stated that the Government will treat the colonies with the utmost sympathy, and will make every proper concession to their rights and interests, but it is determined, at the same time, to make every sacrifice to retain them.

### TURKEY AND GREECE.

The latest intelligence from the East represents the Turkish Government as taking measures to enforce its demands against Greece, or, at least, to be ready for any contingency. The Turkish Minister



at Athens has been recalled; the Greek Minister at Constantinople has received his passports, as in 1854; the more suspected of the Hellenic subjects have been ordered to quit the Turkish territory; and it is, moreover, stated that three frigates and an ironclad have left the Bosphorus to reinforce Hobart Pasha in the Archipelago. The ambassadors of England, France, and Austria, have, it is said, refused the request of the Greek Minister, M. Delyanni, to take under their protection the interests of the persons expelled from the Turkish territory. It has been decided at a council at which the Sultan presided, that if Greece rejected the ultimatum sent to her, all Greek subjects should at once be expelled from the Turkish empire. If Greece chose to consider this measure as a *casus belli*, the responsibility of declaring war would rest with herself.

The *Moniteur* contradicts the rumour about an encounter followed by a hostile engagement between the Enosis and a Turkish vessel of war. The Greek blockade-runner replied to the signals of the Turkish ship with a cannon-shot, and then took refuge in Syra harbour. However, thanks to the good will of the French naval commander, Forlin, Hobart Pasha was prevailed upon to accede to the former's proposal to raise the blockade, and desist from further pursuit, provided that the Hellenic frigate *Hellas* should convey the Enosis to the Piræus, there to await a prompt judicial investigation of her conduct. In a later issue the *Moniteur* says:—"As we prognosticated yesterday, the incident of the Enosis appears destined to end peacefully. The Great Powers who signed the treaty of 1856 continue to act unitedly in favour of conciliation."

It is rumoured that a Ministerial crisis is expected at Athens, and that M. Bulgaris will be succeeded by M. Comoudouros. A recent speech of M. Bulgaris, advocating an arrangement with Turkey, is assigned as the motive for expecting a change in the Greek Ministry. Great excitement prevails in Greece. The press urge that Garibaldi should be invited, and the crossing of the frontier of Epirus as soon as the rupture between the two Powers is complete.

The Great Powers, according to a telegram from Berlin, are still resolved to do all in their power to prevent the actual outbreak of hostilities.

#### AMERICA.

Congress has adjourned to the 5th of January.

The refusal of the Senate to hear the message of President Johnson came about in this way:—Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts, confessed that he thought the message "disrespectful and untruthful, and the acrid outpouring of a disappointed bad man; . . . but he was still the President of the United States, and had sent in his annual message, and it would be better to read it." This advice was so well received that a gentleman who had moved a resolution for dispensing with the reading of the rest of the message (a large portion of it had been read without objection) asked leave to withdraw his motion, and it would have been withdrawn but for Mr. Cameron, Mr. Lincoln's War Secretary. A fresh debate ensued, and at last a senator suggested that business would be facilitated by an adjournment, which he proceeded to move, and his motion was carried by 26 to 22. The House of Representatives not only heard the message through, but by 128 to 38, ordered it to be printed in the usual way, one member, who denounced the tone and character of the message as much as anyone, expressing the general opinion of the House by declaring that refusal to print the Message would be "making too much of one who is effectually dead." The *Tribune*, referring to the procedure of the Senate, says that "Congress never expressed more truly the spirit of the nation than when it trampled contemptuously upon this miserable message, and left it to be swept up with the dust, and dirt, and waste paper of the floor."

Both Houses of Congress have passed the bill permitting the reorganisation of militia in those Southern States which have been admitted to representation.

The House passed a bill ordering the elections in Virginia to take place on the 27th of May. Mr. Sumner has introduced a bill in the Senate for carrying out the reconstruction laws in Georgia.

The Senate passed on Friday a resolution sympathising with the Spaniards in the efforts they are making to establish a more liberal Government, and urging them to abolish slavery in the Spanish possessions as soon as possible.

The Cheyenne Indians are suing for peace.

It is rumoured that Spain and the South American Republics accept the proposal of the United States for a settlement of the existing difficulties by a plenipotentiary commission at Washington.

#### FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

An attempt has been made to assassinate Mr. Taylor, the British consul at Erzeroum.

The appeal of the Belgian Public Prosecutor against Mr. Doulton's acquittal came before the Brussels court on Friday. The court, after hearing witnesses, took time to consider its decision.

A Fenian head-centre, a most active member of that organisation, Mr. John Savage, is said to have been appointed consul to Leeds by the American Government.

By an Imperial ukase just issued at St. Petersburg, all Poles in the Russian army who have no prospect of promotion to the rank of officer may, if they desire it, obtain an unlimited furlough. It is supposed that the object of this measure is to limit the number of Polish officers, the large proportion of Poles in the Russian army having of late caused some alarm among the military authorities.

LETTER FROM MAZZINI ON ITALIAN AFFAIRS.—The *Star* prints nearly two columns of extract from a letter dictated by Joseph Mazzini during his recent

illness. It was published in all the Italian Liberal papers, and immediately sequestered by the Italian Government, but it is scarcely necessary to add that it has been only more eagerly sought for and widely read in consequence. "I am better," says the writer, in commencing his appeal to his countrymen, "and I verily believe that the gauntlet of defiance newly thrown to us by the Pope and his foreign protector with the corpses of Monti and Tognetti, a sense of Italian rage, and a dread of descending into the tomb with the image of my country dishonoured stamped upon my soul, have acted as a tonic upon my weakened frame. I feel as if I could not die until I had done my own small part to efface the mark of cowardice with which others have stained and stain our Italian flag. To that brutal defiance there is but one fit answer. We must win Rome at any cost and with all speed." This is the text of a great deal of declamation.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON.—The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News* says:—"The fourth and last series of visitors have left Compiègne. From all I can gather, it has been a dull season at the Hunting Palace, great though the preparations were to make it a gay one. The Baudin prosecutions, the tacit conspiracy to annoy into which the press of the provinces as well as Paris has entered, the disquietude caused by the state of foreign affairs, and the failing faculties of the Emperor, tended to depress host, hostess, and guests. The Ministers were all the while in bad humour at the indecision of their master. That the Emperor is not the man he was is now a received opinion among people of all parties. I was told only yesterday by a public man in a position to be well informed, and not likely to make a rash assertion, that his Majesty has not health to study the papers placed before him as he used to do. One day he gives orders from the rough summaries of his secretaries: the next these orders are often countermanded when he finds time and inclination to read and judge for himself. Hence the want of unity which is so apparent in the Government; the fluctuations, the hot and cold fits which, while they exasperate, give courage to the Opposition."

THE WILL OF BARON JAMES ROTHSCHILD.—The wealth left by the late Baron James de Rothschild is something fabulous. It overpowers the imagination. No Sultan, or Caliph, or Emperor, real or fabled, approached him in the extent of his opulence. The "wealth of Ormus or of Ind" pales before it. The late Baron made the following disposition of his fortune:—He left to his wife Betty 8,000,000*l.*, the Chateau Ferrière, whose art galleries are estimated at above 800,000*l.*, and his house in the Rue La Fayette, at Paris. To his second son, Gustavus, he gave 8,000,000*l.*; to his third son, Edmund, 6,000,000*l.*; and to his grandson, the son of the late Solomon Rothschild, 2,000,000*l.* This is pretty well in itself, but it does not exhaust the vast heaps left by the modern Croesus. The largest plum has fallen to the lot of his eldest son Alphonso, who comes in for a trifle of 20,000,000*l.* This colossal fortune—and perhaps these legacies do not exhaust the amount—reaches the sum total of 44,800,000*l.* It may give some idea of what this means to mention that it would nearly pay the interest on the National Debt for two years, and is considerable more than half the income of Great Britain. Verily the deceased Baron must, like Midas, have possessed the faculty of turning everything he touched into gold.—*Express*. [Surely there must be some mistake in these figures.]

THE ALABAMA QUESTION.—The change in the English Ministry is regarded in America as interfering with the settlement of the Alabama claims controversy, and it is quite probable that that matter will again be troublesome. The President considers the change as only a temporary hindrance, but the new phase of affairs resulting from the American refusal to accept the protocol as agreed upon by Lord Stanley and Mr. Beverdy Johnson, and the delay necessarily arising from a change in the British Foreign Office, will postpone matters long enough to get a new Administration into power in the United States. This new Administration will view the Alabama controversy and the entire attitude of Great Britain towards the South during the war in a very different light from the present Administration, will make greater demands, and will assume a much haughtier tone. Secretary Seward is anxious to settle the controversy before the 4th of March, and fears that it will give trouble afterwards. Congress will get the whole matter up in debate soon, and then will be seen how dissatisfied the Republican leaders are with the present character of the negotiations. No one here expects to get from the new English Ministry the concessions made by Lord Stanley, and the future prospects of the controversy do not appear to be very assuring.—*Times Philadelphia Correspondent*.

THE FRENCH GARRISON IN THE ROMAN STATES.—I am now in possession of authentic information as to the propositions made by the Marquis de Banneville to Cardinal Antonelli for the augmentation of the French corps of occupation. The Ambassador inquired whether his Holiness was willing to receive French garrisons in Velletri and Frosinone, and to allow another division to occupy the Roman City. The Cardinal replied that the Pope would be content to see the French at Velletri and Frosinone, as well as Civita Vecchia, but that he only wished them to enter Rome in the gravest eventuality. The Ambassador then requested that the Pontifical troops might be placed under the orders of the commander of the French army of observation, and this proposal also was declined, the Cardinal urging that the Pontifical Government could not adopt such a measure without surrendering its independence. But the Marquis de Banneville, far from being daunted, considers the Cardinal's

tone an encouragement to renew the proposition; and official circles admit that, if war broke out, the Pope would allow his troops to be employed as an auxiliary force against Italy. It may be in connection with this design that the French Ambassador has held a long conference with Francis II. of Naples. Meanwhile, General Dumont is very busy in Paris, and General Ravel has reviewed the French troops at Civita Vecchia, and distributed Pontifical decorations among the officers.—*Correspondent of Pall Mall Gazette*.

#### Miscellaneous.

THE LATE MR. CORDEN AND THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON.—The Emperor Napoleon gave 1,000 francs towards the statue of Mr. Cobden which has been erected at Camden-town, and on Thursday the committee under whom the statue was put up waited on the French ambassador to request that he would thank the Emperor for his donation, and convey to his Majesty a photographic picture of the unveiling of the statue. Upon being assured that, munificent as the sum was contributed by his Majesty, the committee valued it not for its amount, but as the earnest of the goodwill and friendly disposition of his Majesty towards this nation, the ambassador replied that no other significance but this should be attached to the Emperor's act, although at the same time his Majesty desired to do honour to the memory of a great and good man.

RAILWAY AMALGAMATION.—It is stated that the Brighton and the South-Eastern Companies have entered into working arrangements, founded on the joint-purse system and a percentage division of receipts. The agreement applies to all the places at which the two lines at present compete, and the companies bind themselves not to promote any extensions without mutual consent.—On Thursday a meeting was held in London with the object of forming an association for the protection of shareholders. A resolution was carried which declared the necessity of immediate formation of such a society, and that its object be to enable members to obtain every information respecting companies in which they are interested, to secure the best legal advice, and to institute prosecutions in cases of well-ascertained frauds.

UNITED KINGDOM BAND OF HOPE UNION.—On Tuesday night the annual *soirée* of the members and friends of this society, of which Mr. S. Morley, M.P., is president, took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street. Prior to the public meeting, tea, coffee, and refreshments were served in the great hall. Mr. B. Whitworth, M.P., presided at the meeting; and amongst those present were the Venerable Archdeacon Sandford, the Rev. S. M'Al (Principal of Hackney College), the Rev. D. Burns, M.A., the Rev. G. M. Murphy, Dr. Scatliff, &c. The objects contemplated by this society may be briefly stated. They desire to form new Bands of Hope, and assist, as far as means will allow, such as are at present in existence; to employ authors of acknowledged talents in the production of works adapted to the present state of the movement; to circulate approved publications on the subject; to employ agents qualified to interest the young, and to organise, on a right basis, local Bands of Hope. From a statement which was read by the Rev. G. W. McCree, secretary, it appears that the progress of the movement during the past year has been gratifying and full of promise. There has been an evident desire on the part of ministers of all denominations, schoolmasters, superintendents, and teachers in Sunday-schools, and every other class of Christians, to afford increasing support, both pecuniary and moral, to the society. It must be admitted, however, that there is still urgent need for greater zeal and liberality, in order that the movement may surmount the obstacles which retard its consummation. The committee, therefore, urge the importance of an immediate and large increase of the funds placed at their disposal. Every day shows them new spheres of labour, which they might, and would, at once occupy, if the necessary funds (for agents, deputations, conferences, and publications) were placed in their hands. Were the income of the Union doubled, it would not exceed the present demands upon the committee for the occupancy of fresh spheres of exertion and the adoption of accessible modes of extending the movement throughout the country. Applications for sermons, addresses, conferences, and aid of other kinds, are incessantly coming from every part of the metropolis and the provinces, and it is only in consequence of the small income of the Union that the committee are prevented from doing what they desire, and their friends and fellow-labourers recommend. A band of juvenile collectors, assisted by older friends, has been organised, and during the year they have obtained the sum of 80*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* The number of publications sold during the last year has been 42,961 pledge-cards, 31,899 melody books, 3,750 recitations, 1,088 tune-books, besides a large number of tracts, tickets, certificates, &c. The income for the year has amounted to 1,233*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*, while the expenditure has been 1,232*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.* In conclusion, the committee express unabated confidence in the scientific truth, exalted humanity, and religious sanctions of their principles, and their ultimate diffusion and victory. After the reading of the report, several friends of the Union delivered addresses in aid of its objects. During the evening a choir, composed of members of the Red Lion-square Blind Choral Class, sang a selection of pieces under the direction of Mr. G. T. Pyne. The proceedings appeared to afford gratification and interest to a large and attentive audience.



## Literature.

## AN OLD SAILOR'S STORY.\*

Though the Old Sailor's "Log of his Leisure Hours" appears in the form of the orthodox three-volume novel, it is about as unlike the common novel as a book well can be. The author, indeed, has only adopted this narrative style with the view of bringing out the principal incidents of a somewhat remarkable career, and of enforcing those lessons of high morality and practical wisdom which it illustrates. His desire is to tell the story of "a life of success without speculation; happiness in the midst of unwearied industry; numerous enjoyments without critical excitement; and love without romance." This he has done with considerable success. The book is interesting throughout, because we feel that we are reading the biography of a real man, whose faults and weaknesses it is not attempted to conceal, but who rose steadily in life, in virtue of qualities which every youth may and ought to cultivate. Perhaps it may be said that Richard Claremont, who is the real hero, owed much to fortunate accidents, but the number of these is very small, and his success was due not to them, but to the undaunted spirit which bore him superior to no ordinary difficulties; to the patient and unwearied perseverance which spared no toil necessary to secure his ends; to the self-restraint which taught him to husband his resources; and the integrity which stood him in better stead than a large capital or brilliant genius. His beginnings were sad and discouraging enough. Left an orphan, and sent from a small southern port to London, in order to find a ship for himself, he was doomed to wander to and fro through the docks, seeking in vain the employment he desired, to see his poor stock slowly consume away, to become the victim of some designing villains who plundered him of the little he had left, and finally to be cast out as a mere wail and stray in the great city, homeless, friendless, almost absolutely penniless. The boy who raised himself from this to a position of comparative wealth, and did so altogether by his own exertions, must have been no common character, and so our readers will feel as they study the book. There is nothing bearing the most distant resemblance to the sensational in his career. He found no wealthy patron to smooth his course in life, he inherited no great property, he rose not by the favour of powerful friends, but by means of the reputation he won, by the steadiness with which he discharged every duty he undertook. His first friend was a kind-hearted policeman, who took pity on the poor desolate stranger, allowed him to find shelter for two nights under one of the wooden sheds of old Billingsgate, and divided his own meal with him. His next was an old sailor in North Shields, who did him more permanent good by giving him a little employment and helping him indirectly to gratify his cherished desire and enter on a sailor's life. For some time that work was hard enough, and had Richard not possessed a stout heart as well as a vigorous frame he must have sunk beneath it. But he bore up bravely against the petty tyranny to which he was subject, and of which we have here a very graphic description, and rose step by step to become the master of a vessel at an early age. But a sea life did not quite satisfy him, the more so as his affections were engaged, and he desired a settled home. Commencing, then, his new course on shore in a humble position as agent, he passed on rapidly to be a large and successful ship-broker, and ultimately an opulent merchant and member of Parliament. This brief outline is filled up in the book itself, with many incidents of considerable interest. The very vicissitudes of Claremont's career gave him a large experience, and we have thus a succession of new and instructive views continually passing before us. The Wapping "crimps" and their practices, life on board merchant-ships, and in West Indian ports, the manners and customs of the gentlemen of our public offices, the contrast between Government and private dockyards, the selfishness that too often marks the municipal administration of small towns, are some of the subjects of sketches that are done with considerable effect.

The "Old Sailor" has formed his independent opinions on most points, and especially on those connected with commerce and politics, and he expresses them with great strength and decision. They are the opinions of one who judges of subjects rather in the concrete than the abstract, relies mainly, perhaps too much, on his own observation, and cares little for mere theory. In the main, however, we agree with

\* *Log of my Leisure Hours.* By AN OLD SAILOR. Three vols. (London: Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.)

him, the most marked point of difference being in relation to the negroes, and the effects of emancipation upon them. It would take us a great deal too much space to argue the question, and though the views expressed are just those which a youth in Claremont's position might naturally have been expected to form, we must express our entire dissent from them. There are few parts of the book, which will be more interesting, especially with the prospect of discussions on naval matters, than those which describe the Naval Administration. The scenes in the offices are evidently drawn from life, and exhibit a state of things in which it is to be hoped Mr. Childers will be able to effect a thorough revolution. Lord Clarence Paget comes in for a little quiet satire which may serve as a warning to his successors. It is certainly high time that the system came to an end, by which each new First Lord seems bound to proclaim that he finds our Navy in so wretched a condition as to necessitate immediate expenditure to a large amount, the Whigs rectifying the failures of the Tories, who in their turn will atone for the shortcomings of the Whigs, while the unfortunate taxpayers are heavily mulcted by both. We prefer, however, instead of going into public matters, to give here a scene to which we fear there are only too many counterparts, descriptive of the life led in the Government offices, to which the stern hand of reform must speedily be applied. Richard is endeavouring to get hold of one of the officials, in order to submit his coals for inspection. He has already made some fruitless attempts, but, determined to succeed, he makes another effort. He finds the room where Mr. Numhead, the clerk in question, was supposed to attend to his duties—

"The room which ought to have contained that gentleman was at last discovered, but he had 'just gone out,' and his return that day was 'rather uncertain.' Claremont, however, 'might wait and see,' if he 'liked.' He did wait, but Mr. Numhead did not return, which I dare say no one in the office expected him to do. None of the clerks could afford him any satisfactory information, and all of them commenced at half-past three to wash their hands, comb their hair, brush their whiskers, and put themselves in order, ready to take their leave punctually at four o'clock, when Claremont also had to depart, with an intimation that he might return on the following morning at ten o'clock."

"Beggars, it is said, must not be choosers, and as he found it impossible to make any progress with Portend steam-coals unless they were on the Admiralty list, he was obliged to wait the convenience of the gentleman who attended to that part of the storekeeper's department."

"On the following morning he made his appearance at ten o'clock to a minute, but the gentlemen who occupied the three-room quarters did not appear to be so punctual in their arrival at ten a.m. as they had been in their departure at four p.m. on the previous afternoon."

"Gubbins," said a red-haired sporting-looking character, popping his head into the room where Claremont sat waiting for Mr. Numhead, "Gubbins, I've signed the book; there's to be capital sport—begins at twelve—don't think it'll be over before four—keep all right if I ain't back in time; don't forget, I will do as much for you," said the red-haired gent, and off he started. In fact, he was never actually in the room; for he held the door-handle, and looked round its edge from without, while explaining to Mr. Gubbins what to do should an emergency arise."

"Waiting patiently until the hands of the clock pointed to eleven, Claremont ventured to ask Mr. Gubbins when Mr. Numhead was expected. Mr. Gubbins himself did not seem to have very much to do, for he sat at his ease on a long-legged chair with a staffed back to it. One of his own legs he had cocked high over the other, while humming some popular air, and keeping time to it with a ruler on the edge of the desk before him."

"What did you say?" asked Mr. Gubbins, who having been so absorbed with the musical sounds he was himself creating, had not heard Claremont's question, so that he had to repeat it. "Whom do you want?"

"Claremont repeated the inquiry."

"Numhead, Numhead," said Mr. Gubbins; "why, Mr. Numhead—let me see, doubtful if he'll get back to-day—didn't you see him when he was here half an hour ago; why didn't you speak to him then?"

"Claremont explained that he had not the pleasure of the personal acquaintance of Mr. Numhead, and that he consequently was not aware that the gentleman with the striped cravat and figured waistcoat and blue coat, who had stood at the door for a few minutes giving directions to Mr. Gubbins, bore that name, and filled the arduous and responsible position of Registrar of Steam-coals; and he concluded by expressing a hope that Mr. Gubbins himself, or some other gentleman in the office, would attend to the very small matter of business he had in hand."

"But the thing was 'quite impossible.' Mr. Gubbins said that he had far too much to do in his own department to attend to that of any other gentleman in the office; and besides, it would be 'altogether irregular'; he could not think of such a thing, nor could he say what course Claremont should adopt to induce my lords to order the superintendent at Woolwich to instruct the engineer and tester to prove the quality of Portend steam-coals. As it appeared that nobody in the three rooms, nor I dare say in any other part of Somerset House, knew anything about the matter, except Mr. Numhead, Claremont had consequently to call again on the following morning and wait that gentleman's pleasure."

"Mr. Numhead, however, when at last seen, was not at all communicative, and the only information he condescended to give to Claremont consisted of a brief announcement, that he might, if he liked, address the Secretary to the Admiralty, state to him what he

required, and that then my lords commissioners might or might not allow a certain quantity of Portend coals to be landed at Woolwich, so that their suitability for her Majesty's ships of war could be ascertained."

## BRIEF NOTICES.

*Words of Comfort for Parents Bereaved of Little Children.* Edited by WILLIAM LOGAN. Fifth Edition. (London: Nisbet and Co.) Within a few months the public have called for a new edition of this popular volume, making the thirteenth thousand. Mr. Logan repays the encouragement he receives, by periodically increasing the intrinsic value of the book, which is now swollen to nearly 600 pages. The new edition contains articles by Principal Tulloch, Dean Alford, the Rev. H. Ward Beecher, H. Allon, and other ministers. We trust that while it will continue to fulfil the beneficent object for which it is so well adapted, among a constantly increasing circle Mr. Logan's volume has now reached full maturity.

*Miss Ravenel's Conversion from Secession to Loyalty.* A Novel. By T. W. DE FOREST. (New York: Harper and Brothers.) The conversion of a rebel young lady to Republican views, though it gives the title to this book, occupies in truth but a very small space in it, and is effected by the change of circumstances and associations rather than by those arguments which the title might have led us to expect. Those who may have anticipated a series of dissertations on the American war, will be surprised on taking up the volume to find how little there is in it of politics, and how much of incident and adventure. It is, in fact, a picture of American society during the war, giving us views of life both in the North and in the South, in the city and in the camp, and so enabling us more clearly to understand the causes which delayed the success of the North. The characteristic distinctions of different classes of officers, the contrast between the West Point men and those who have been suddenly taken from civil life and placed in command, the miserable system of jobbery which was at work, and the way in which the interests of the army were sacrificed to political intrigue, are brought out with great effect. The story itself is not a pleasing one, the whole episode of Mrs. Larue in particular being in the worst possible taste and style. It is hardly fair for those who may be attracted to the book by their interest in American liberty, that they should find themselves thus drawn into scenes of the most unpleasant and questionable character.

*Where is the City?* (London: Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.) This is a record of the attempts made by a young man to discover the true Church—of his wanderings from sect to sect, and of the disappointments with which he met in each. His ultimate conclusion is that no Church can fairly claim the city whose name is given by Ezekiel as "the Lord is there." He finds in all something by which to profit, and something from which to dissent. There is nothing new or very striking in such an ending to such a quest, but the result can hardly be regarded as satisfactory if the inquirer remains isolated from all sects, instead of adhering to that which appears to possess most of the truth, and cherishing a large-hearted charity towards all the rest.

*The King and the Commons. Cavalier and Puritan.* Songs. Selected and arranged by HENRY MORLEY. (London: Sampson, Low, Son, and Marston.) This is a real literary gem, containing a very choice collection of the poetry of the Commonwealth period. The men who employed their pens on both sides of the great controversy, were of no mean mark. With the King were Lovelace and Suckling, Herriek and George Herbert, Waller and Francis Quarles, Drummond of Hawthornden, and a host of others. On the side of the Commonwealth, there are but three whose verses are here given, but those three are Wither, Marvel, and John Milton, so that the cause of the Commonwealth comes off victorious in this as in the more martial strife. The editor, Professor Morley, has written a brief but interesting and learned introduction, a large part of which is occupied with a discussion of the authorship of the poem recently discovered in the British Museum, and attributed by him to John Milton. The volume is enriched by an exact fac-simile of the poem itself, and is got up with great elegance and taste.

*The Beacons of the Bible.* A Series of Tracts. By the Very Rev. R. H. LAW, M.A. (London: J. Nisbet and Co.) This is a volume of earnest practical discourses based on Scriptural narratives. They are marked by a desire for usefulness, strong spiritual sympathy, a plain and vigorous exhibition of important truth, and forcible appeals to the conscience. They are evidently the productions of a man who strives to make his ministry felt to be a power for good.

*The Guardian Angel.* By OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES. New Edition. (London: Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.) We have already discussed at some length the merits of Dr. Holmes's clever novel. We have now only to call attention to its reissue in this cheap and handy, but very neat and useful form. The publishers deserve credit for the combination of cheapness and excellence in this edition.

*The Life of St. Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux.* By J. C. MORISON, M.A. New Edition. Revised. (London: Macmillan and Co.) Mr. Morison's monograph is a work of great merit and value, dealing most thoroughly



with one of the most interesting characters, and one of the most interesting periods in the Church history of the Middle Ages. Mr. Morison is thoroughly master of his subject, and writes with great discrimination and fairness, and in a chaste and elegant style. The character of the book is attested by its having reached a second edition, which the author has carefully revised and improved.

*The Mainspring; or, For Thy Sake.* A Tale by T. A. WINSLOW. (London: Seeley, Jackson, and Halliday.) This is a religious story with an excellent purpose, but with considerable narrowness of view, and nothing very striking in the way of literary power.

*Studies in Early French Poetry.* By WALTER BESANT. (London: Macmillan and Co.) Mr. Besant has here introduced us to a department of French literature of which English readers in general are utterly ignorant. The book has all the attraction which is derived from freshness of subject, and great care and diligence in its treatment. We do not profess to give a critical estimate of its value, but we can bear our testimony to the interesting manner in which the writer has embodied here a great deal of information on points in relation to which no student of French literature ought to be ignorant.

*Tom Brown's School Days.* By AN OLD BOY. New Edition. With Illustrations by Arthur Hughes and S. P. Hall. (London: Macmillan and Co.) "Tom Brown's School-days" is one of those books which is never likely to lose its popularity, and well deserves the honour of being reproduced in this elegant and illustrated edition. The author has been enabled to enlist the services of such artists as Arthur Hughes and Sidney Hall, who have done their work *con amore*, and produced some very telling and effective illustrations. Where is the schoolboy who would not welcome this handsome volume as one of the most acceptable Christmas presents he could receive?

*Smoking and Drinking,* by JAMES PARTON (Boston: Ticknor and Fields), is, we should think, "nuts" to the anti-tobacco party. It is certainly the smartest bit of writing that has been contributed to the controversy from any one occupying their standpoint. But for all that, Mr. Parton fails to show where is the harm of really moderate smoking. He ingeniously tries to win the ladies over to his side by intimating that tobacco is their rival, because it "tends to vitiate the relations between the sexes, tends to lessen man's interest in women, and his enjoyment of their society, and enables him to endure and be contented with, and, finally, even to prefer the companionship of men"—all which may be perfectly true, and a very strong argument against smoking away from one's family, but it collapses at once by supposing the simple plan of smoking at the family hearth to be adopted. Mr. Parton's book, however, is an excellent one, and one we can cordially recommend to our readers: for, whatever its aim may be, its tendency is, in relation both to drinking and smoking, to discourage the formation of injurious habits, and to caution those who are not total abstainers to practise moderation and to be on their guard against the tyranny of habit and custom.

*The Ministry in Galilee.* By the Rev. W. HANNA, D.D. (Edmonston and Douglas.) The special characteristics of Dr. Hanna's writings are known to many of our readers, and the bare announcement of another series of discourses from his pen will be a better recommendation to them than any we could offer. But we cannot withhold ours nevertheless. The more we study the New Testament by such aids as those supplied in this book, whether they be originated in our own meditations and independent research, or in the suggestions of more systematic students of Scripture, the more are we persuaded of their importance. Dr. Hanna occupies a position in relation to this microscopic study of the Gospel narratives to which no other writer has attained, and hence his sermons are suggestive even to those whose personal investigations are by no means inconsiderable; and his own recollections of the physical outlines of the country to which our Lord's ministry was chiefly confined, afford him a means of presenting vivid pictures of the various scenes referred to in his discourses of which he avails himself in very eloquent and forcible terms. The incidents of the ministry in Galilee being so briefly referred to by the fourth evangelist, there is not perhaps that opportunity afforded for a comparison of the synoptists with John which there was in the case of Dr. Hanna's preceding volumes, and it may be that partly on this account this volume will not earn the same popularity as "The Forty Days after the Resurrection," or "The Days of our Lord's Passion," but it will, we trust, be widely circulated and thoughtfully read.

*London Directory, 1869.* Messrs. Kelly and Co. have just issued the "London Directory" for 1869. The Parliamentary elections and change of Government occurring so near the end of the year must have occasioned them some extra trouble, but all the necessary changes are made, the Ministerial list including all those members of the Government who had been appointed before the 7th inst. Those who have been appointed since that date are therefore not registered in the Directory for 1869. The list of officers of State looks, and indeed is, very incomplete; but this is, of course, inevitable, the only wonder being that the changes occurring at so late a date have been notified in all the

places in which it was requisite. In other respects the Directory for 1869 is like its immediate predecessor.

**PARLOUR FIREWORKS.**—The London Stereoscopic Company have produced a decided novelty in the shape of parlour fireworks, which are as harmless as anything which has to do with fire can be. They are intended to be "let off" over the fireplace in a darkened room, held there by a pair of tongs, and the appearance they present must greatly delight the young folks. We cannot speak so highly of the photographic puzzle introduced by the same house.

### Miscellaneous News.

**THE ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION.**—Mr. and Mrs. German Reed's Entertainment opens to-night for the forthcoming season, when Mr. Burnand's clever production, "Inquire Within," will be given. During the absence of Mr. John Parry, Mr. Frank Matthews will take his character, and a *débütante* of much promise, Mlle. Rosa D'Erina, will appear, not only in "Inquire Within," but as the heroine of a new musical extravaganza, which has been taken from the French by R. Reece, and will be brought out under the title of "The Last of the Paladins." Mr. German Reed has secured a well-selected company to do full justice to the light and pleasing strains of this popular class of composition.

**PERILS OF ENGINE-DRIVERS AND RAILWAY SERVANTS.**—On Wednesday a passenger in a fast train deliberately fired a pistol at the signalman at Stoneford, on the Midland Company's Erewash Valley line, slightly wounding him on the breast. On Saturday the driver and stoker of an up-train were fired at near Mostyn, on the Chester and Holyhead line, by a passenger in the down mail for Ireland. No explanation of these mysterious outrages has yet been obtained. Again, on Friday night, just as a train was starting from Edgbaston for Birmingham, some one sprang into the guard's van, threw crockets or naphtha in his eyes, and carried off a box containing money. A breakman has been arrested on suspicion.

**SHORT TIME IN LANCASHIRE.**—At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Cotton Spinners' Association, held on Friday, it was stated, in reference to a circular which had been sent out by the association, that a great number of replies had been received, and that 68 per cent. of the firms by whom communications had been sent were working short time, giving an average to the whole number of rather less than four and a half days per firm. Rather more than 50 per cent. were prepared to work short time immediately; and a further number, equal to 32 per cent., conditionally, either upon their neighbours or a large majority of the whole trade doing the same. The committee agreed to call a meeting of spinners and manufacturers.

**THE CESSION OF GIBRALTAR.**—In a letter to the *Times*, signed "George Grey, Admiral," the writer denies the absurdity of the proposal to cede Gibraltar to Spain. He says Ceuta is in every respect a more desirable place as a harbour of refuge and refitting. Gibraltar, owing to its position, is fit for neither purpose, in peace or in war, in calm or in storm. The Admiral, therefore, proposes that a certain number of years should be allowed us to form a harbour to the southward of Ceuta by a breakwater similar to that at Portland, for which there is every facility, and then to cede Gibraltar intact, with all its fortifications, in return for a proportion of the expense at Ceuta being paid by Spain. This bargain, he thinks, would be at once advantageous to Spain and the best bargain for England.

**AN ALARMING ACCIDENT** took place on the Midland Railway, near Nottingham, on Saturday night. The Mansfield market train from Nottingham came into collision with a train of empties returning from Chesterfield. Both engines were thrown off the line, and upwards of forty persons were injured, and in one or two cases it is feared that death will be the result. Mr. J. J. Handley, solicitor, Mansfield, is suffering seriously from internal injuries, and his daughter has been dreadfully cut about the head and face. Clement Tutbury, of Annesley, has received frightful injuries on the body. Mathew Butler, of Sutton, has had his skull and one of his legs fractured, and Mr. Davy, of Nottingham, is seriously wounded. It seems that the signalman displayed the usual sign for the train to stop while the Mansfield ordinary train passed; but, instead of doing so, the driver came right on, and thus it was that the collision occurred.

**COMPULSORY EDUCATION.**—At a meeting of the Social Science Association on Wednesday evening, the Rev. Canon Norris read a paper on a compulsory system of education. The rev. gentleman said that direct compulsion remained to be considered. By indirect compulsion was meant a plan of making a certain amount of schooling a condition of employment up to a certain age. It had been tried and found practicable, it has had a considerable effect in promoting education, and it is capable of indefinite improvement and extension. The Acts beginning with the Factory Act and ending with the Workshops Act, 1867, might be amended with advantage, and similar restrictions extended to the agricultural population. In this way the whole pale of our labouring population might be brought under a system of indirect compulsion which has proved practicable, does not alienate the parents, and leaves untouched the constitution of the schools.

**A WILD MAN IN KENT.**—The Kentish papers report that an extraordinary character has been captured in a lonely shed at Egerton, in the person of Frederick Naasch, a Belgian soldier, who for some months has been wandering about the Weald of Kent, clothed in rags, and living on roots, berries,

and offal. His appearance when apprehended was grotesque in the extreme. The article which did duty for a coat consisted of patches of old rags quilted over and over again, in many places to the thickness of an inch. His nether clothing was of the same description. He was barefooted, and carried a quantity of stinking fowls' legs, some putrid flesh, and pieces of fish, in a pair of worn shoes, which he had under his arm. One good habit he retained, for a piece of soap was found upon him when apprehended. He was sentenced by the Ashford magistrates to ten days' imprisonment, but was too ill to be removed. The Belgian consul at Dover has been communicated with, and the poor fellow will be received by that gentleman and sent on to Ostend as soon as he can be removed.

**DEPUTATION TO THE INDIAN MINISTER.**—The Duke of Argyll, as Secretary of State for India, received a deputation on Friday on the subject of irrigation in India. The deputation was introduced by Lord Lyveden. The Duke of Argyll said it was impossible for any one to have a stronger feeling upon the subject of the deputation than himself. As he had only been in office for a week, the deputation would not wish him to enter into the difficulties of the subject; but he agreed in the general principle, which had been laid down by the late Lord Dalhousie, that it was hopeless to expect that works of this nature should be defrayed out of the current revenues of the empire. On the other hand, the principle had been laid down, which he thought was a sound one, that as far as possible the revenues of India should be made to assist the ordinary public works of the country, so long as those works did not increase the public debt of India. Under these circumstances he thought that schemes of this nature might be met by a loan.

**MR. PEABODY'S TRUST.**—The statement issued on behalf of Mr. Peabody's trustees appears to dispose completely of the complaints concerning the administration of the fund, for in the first place an account is given of the occupations of persons in possession of the buildings already elected, and in the next it is shown that these tenants receive low wages and pay a very moderate sum as rent. It was Mr. Peabody's own design to assist the industrious poor, not to do the work of parochial authorities by attempting to deal with actual pauperism. The poor, as he believed, suffer many disadvantages from not having comfortable and decent homes, and to the supply of this special want he wished his fund to be devoted. When three excellent rooms can be had free of rates and taxes for 6s. a week, with baths, washing-rooms, and laundries in the house for the use of tenants, it is obvious to us all how much reason there was in the charge that the fund was being turned into a "commercial speculation." It is quite evident that the complainants wrote, as many people like to write, without taking the trouble to acquire proper information beforehand. —*Pull Mall Gazette.*

**THE WORKING MEN OF SOUTH LONDON AND THE AMERICAN MINISTER.**—At the Saturday night newspaper readings, at the Lambeth Baths, the Rev. G. M. Murphy in the chair, it was moved by Mr. W. Booker, and seconded by Mr. H. King:—"That this meeting of two thousand working men of the South of London having heard the correspondence regarding the lately proposed banquet to the Hon. Reverdy Johnson, while most heartily thanking the American Minister for his noble and manly letter thereupon, would most emphatically and indignantly repudiate the insult offered alike to him and them by such an invitation having been given in the name of the working men of the metropolis, they not having been in any way consulted in the matter. The invitation to the banquet and the subsequent withdrawal from the engagement were therefore alike authorized and unwarranted by the working people of South London: it is therefore resolved that an address to Mr. Johnson, gratefully acknowledging his truly Christian efforts for the promotion of peace and goodwill between the sister nations, from the people of the southern district, be prepared for presentation at a public meeting or otherwise, as may best suit the hon. ambassador's wishes and convenience, and that the Rev. Newnam Hall, LL.B., and the mover and seconder of the resolution, be respectfully requested to prepare the same by Saturday evening next." The resolution was carried by acclamation.

**THE NEW LORD CHANCELLOR.**—A correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury* states that Lord Hatherley has for many years laboured as a Sunday-school teacher, in which capacity he was the colleague for twenty years of a man whom Leeds was proud to return as its representative to Parliament—the late Robert Hall. Here "is a man, with the make and materials of a Chancellor, who has been giving his personal services to working men by instructing their children and grandchildren Sunday after Sunday for the past thirty years, until his hair is whitened with age and hard drudging labour. In his attendance at the school his punctuality is so unerring that upon nearing it he serves as an invariable timepiece, both teacher and scholar knowing well that if they are able to reach the door with or before him they are perfectly safe. Should a medal ever be awarded for punctuality in voluntary service the Lord Chancellor could fairly claim it, for he has never been known to be behind time. Just a few words more to say that Westminster finds in the Lord Chancellor a most liberal supporter of its schools and hospitals, and among its churches, more than one owe their existence to his council and to his munificence. If at any time there should be projected an 'Early Rising Association,' the founders might almost reckon upon Lord Hatherley as president, for our venerable abbot (which is close to his residence) witness his daily entrance at an hour when a third of the metropolis is in a position of recumbency."



**THE WRECK OF THE GOSSAMER.**—A painful incident in the loss of the Gossamer off the South Devon coast was the drowning of the captain and his wife. They were newly married. Shouts brought the captain, Thompson, on deck; when the vessel had missed stays and was nearing Prawle Point. "For heaven's sake where are we!" he exclaimed. To the last moment he remained with his wife on deck. One of the crew, an admirable swimmer, begged to be allowed to take the lady ashore, but the captain declined the offer, and held his wife firmly in his arms. The man who had offered the help swam safely ashore, and a wave sweeping over the ship washed the captain and his wife overboard, and they perished within sight of each other. In all eight bodies of the thirteen persons drowned have been recovered. The wreck has been considerably plundered, and a farmer charged with the offence has been brought before the Kingsbridge magistrates. Thirteen of the crew of the Gossamer have been sent to their homes by the Dartmouth agent of the Shipwrecked Mariners Society. The eight bodies recovered have been buried in the churchyard at Chivellstone, a village near the scene of the wreck—those of the captain and his wife in one grave. The Gossamer was one of the clipper-built ships that recently made an extraordinarily quick passage from Shanghai. A lady who had intended to leave London by the Gossamer was prevented by an accident from doing so. She went down to Plymouth to embark there, and while making some inquiries at the post-office had her pocket picked of her passage-money, 45s., chiefly in notes. The thief was probably the means of saving her life.

**HOME FOR LITTLE BOYS.**—On Saturday afternoon the half-yearly meeting for the election of inmates to the Home for Little Boys, situate at Farnham, in Kent, took place at the London Tavern. There were ten vacancies, for which there were some forty competitors. The ballot opened at twelve and closed at two o'clock, at which latter hour Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Cotton took the chair. He said it was his duty to inform them that in order to meet the demands upon the committee for the maintenance of the 310 boys that the home would contain after that day's election, a sum of 3,000l. per year was required. He was sorry, however, to say that the funds at present placed at their disposal did not exceed 1,000l. They would therefore see that annual subscriptions were more valuable even than donations; that, in fact, they were the very life and blood of the institution. Although this was the case, he was happy to say they were very little in debt—only about 1,500l., which, considering the wealth there was in the land, was an exceedingly small sum. Although pleading at that moment for very little persons, he could assure those assembled he was pleading in a great cause, viz., to rescue those poor boys who would be come our future men from the streets, from a pauper's life, or, what was still worse, a felon's doom—(Hear, hear)—to place that class known as the poor little street Arabs in a position by which they would become in future good members of society. (Hear.) In this home the place of their natural parents was supplied by sixteen married couples, who went by the names of fathers and mothers, and most excellent parents they turned out to be. (Hear.) Of the houses erected, two for thirty boys each had been founded by individuals, and when it was stated that this could be done for 1,000l., it was hoped, that it might prove an incentive to other benevolent persons to do the like, as there were three vacant spaces for which the executive would take the responsibility of maintenance if they could only get the buildings erected. (Hear, hear.) Mr. A. O. Charles, the hon. secretary, then read the result of the ballot, and the ten boys who obtained the highest number of votes were declared as duly elected.

### Gleanings.

The Hammersmith and Richmond Railway will be opened for traffic on the 1st of January.

Messrs. Cassell and Co., have issued penny editions of Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress and Foxe's Book of Martyrs.

A retired agriculturist near Midhurst has set up on his own land an obelisk of sandstone as a memorial of Mr. Cobden.

A monument has been erected in the island of Juan Fernandez to the memory of Alex. Selkirk, the original of De Foe's "Robinson Crusoe."

An American editor, in response to a subscriber, who grumbled that the paper was always damp, said it was because there was so much dew (dew) on it.

"The attempt," says an American paper, "to start an asylum for useless young men failed, as no building could be constructed large enough."

"Nehemiah, compare the adjective cold," said a schoolmistress to her head boy. "Positive cold, comparative cough, superlative coffin," triumphantly responded Nehemiah.

"I wish I knew how I could make neighbour Ransom keep the Sabbath," said the good old Rev. Dr. Rogers. "Lend it to him, pa," said the D.D.'s hopeful son. "He never borrowed anything yet which he didn't keep."

A local paper says that at the North Wilts election, a fortnight ago, a voter who resides in a small country town not far from Corham was applied to several times for his vote. This, however, he resolutely refused to give—"For," said he, "directly after I voted last time the bread rose! and I made up my mind from that time that I'd never vote any more."

**THE TRADE IN HAIR.**—At the Bloomsbury County-court a Mrs. Ready brought an action

against a hairdresser of Camden-town, to recover 10l. as compensation for the loss of some locks of hair, cut off, as she alleged, on two occasions by one of the defendant's assistants. The defence consisted in an unqualified denial of the allegation. The jury were unable to decide between the two conflicting statements, and were discharged without coming to a verdict.

**THE LAST NEW DODGE IN MENDICANCY.**—Two New York beggars of Irish nativity have invented a dodge which is thus explained. There are two parties to the trick—a "blind woman" and a "drunken sailor." The "blind" woman, with her tin placard on her breast, seats herself on the kerbstones. The "drunken sailor" appears and administers to the unfortunate creature several vigorous kicks. The woman howls, the sympathy of the passers-by is aroused, the brutality of the drunken sailor is loudly denounced, and a shower of paper currency fall into the lap of the sufferer. This swindle is repeated an indefinite number of times, and at night the accomplices divide a bounteous harvest.

**IMPROVEMENT IN SHOEING HORSES.**—The Times gives a highly laudatory description of a new method of shoeing horses, which, it is said, obviates many of the evils that are too often the consequence of the old-fashioned system. The plan is the invention of an American, named Goodenough, and is based on the principle that nature designed the frog of a horse's foot to touch the ground and to act as an elastic buffer, whereas it is artificially so raised within the shoe as to be utterly useless. A horse as shod now, walks, as it were on pattens, and Mr. Goodenough by placing on his feet light shoes, following as nearly as possible the shape of the hoof, attempts to give scope for all nature's provisions to come into play. The system is said to have been in highly successful use in America for years, and it has come very satisfactorily out of a test made on a large scale by the London General Omnibus Company.

**SINGULAR CASE OF SKIN-POISONING.**—Dr. Caffé, in the *Journal des Connaissances Médicales*, describes a case of poisoning by nitro-benzine, which occurred a short time ago at Stuttgart. A vigorous young man of twenty-four, who was engaged in emptying a cask of artificial oil of bitter almonds by means of a syphon, thereby unconsciously introduced some nitro-benzine into his system. He did not discover it at once, but continued to work for two hours longer, when he was seized with headache, vertigo, and stuttering; his face assumed a bluish tint, and he fell down in a fit. Vomits were administered without success, and he died on the following day. Upon dissection the whole body emitted a strong smell of bitter almonds; ecchymosis was remarked on the stomach and other organs; the liver was extremely yellow, and the milk large, friable, and red. The most remarkable circumstance in this case is, that the poison remained so long inactive.

**HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.** UNPARALLELED POPULARITY.—Lives are constantly lost through inevitable accident or culpable negligence, which might have been saved if these powerful curatives had been at hand and applied unhesitatingly under the conviction that the wonderful cures effected by these unequalled remedies in all parts of the world have won for them their present favour. Both pills and ointment are composed of ingredients which purify at the same time that they strengthen. No one can deny that health depends upon pure blood, and the natural action of the animal organs. Both objects are effected without risk or danger by Holloway's medicaments, which are as innocent as they are potent. Internal disorders and external blemishes succumb to their power.

### Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

#### BIRTHS.

**RAMSEY.**—December 11, at Hackney, the wife of the Rev. A. A. Ramsey, of a daughter.

**GRAY.**—December 14, at Northampton, the wife of Mr. Parker Gray, of a son.

**WHITE.**—December 18, at Brathay House, Tufnell Park, the wife of the Rev. Edward White, of a son.

#### MARRIAGES.

**FARRAR-HOYLE.**—December 10, at South-parade Chapel, Halifax, by the Rev. T. Michael, assisted by the Revs. Thomas James and T. I. Guest, William Henry, eldest son of J. B. Farrar, Esq., Heatherstone, Halifax, to Hannah, eldest daughter of Richard Hoyle, Esq., Fairfield House, Halifax.

**SYMONS-STAPLE.**—December 13, at the Ebenezer Chapel, Chapel-hill, Exmouth, by the Rev. T. M. Bull, B.A., William, eldest son of H. Symons, Esq., of Exmouth, to Louisa, the youngest daughter of the late W. Staple, Esq., Exmouth.

**MCLAREN-SCHWABE.**—December 14, at 101, Athol-place, Glasgow, John McLaren, Esq., M.P., Edinburgh, to Ottilie Augusta, eldest daughter of H. L. Schwabe.

**HUMPHREYS-TIMMS.**—December 14, at Richmond Baptist Chapel, Liverpool, by the Rev. H. Roberts, Thomas Humphreys, to Ann Maria Timms, of Liverpool.

**CHAMBERS-BOYD.**—December 16, at the Congregational chapel, West Melton, by the father of the bride, Robert W. Chambers, of Hull, to Lily, daughter of the Rev. J. Boyd, West Melton, near Rotherham.

**ELDERSHAW-WATSON.**—December 16, at the Congregational church, Cheetham-hill, by the Rev. Watson Smith, cousin to the bride, Mr. Robert Eldershaw, of this city, to Jane, second daughter of the late Mr. John Watson.

**POWNALL-FOWLER.**—December 16, at St. Peter's, Eaton-square, by the Rev. Mr. Fuller, Charles Pownall, Esq., of the Board of Trade, to Annie Margaret, daughter of the late Mr. George Fowler, Pimlico.

**HODGSON-BRYNING.**—December 17, at the Congregational church, Lytham, by the Rev. S. Clarkson, Mr. Richard Hodgson, Bisham, to Margaret, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Edward Bryning, of Bisham.

**EADY-TOLLER.**—December 17, at the Independent chapel, Market Harborough, by the Rev. William Clarkson, B.A., Mr. Joseph Chamberlain Eady, to Mary Jane, second daughter of the late Rev. Henry Toller, both of Market Harborough. No cards.

#### DEATHS.

**SCOTT.**—November 17, at Four Paths, Clarendon, Jamaica, Agnes Maria, infant daughter of J. W. Scott, Esq., and granddaughter of the Rev. T. H. Clark.

**TURNER.**—December 8, aged eighty-four, the Rev. William Turner, of Hindley, near Wigan, in the sixtieth year of his ministry.

**MUMMERY.**—December 12, at his residence, Malson Dieu House, Dover, William Rigden Mummery, Esq., J.P., in the forty-ninth year of his age.

**HERITAGE.**—December 11, at 1, Church-road, Homerton, Mr. Thomas Heritage, aged forty-eight.

**EWART.**—December 14, at Broadless, Devizes, Joseph Christopher Ewart, Esq., of New Brighton, Cheshire, late M.P. for Liverpool, in his sixty-ninth year.

**SPONG.**—December 15, at 2, Windsor-road, Denmark-hill, Camberwell, in the seventy-sixth year of her age, Sarah, relict of Ambrose Spong, Esq., of Frindsbury, Kent.

**HASWELL.**—December 15, very suddenly, at Trowbridge, the Rev. Thomas Haswell, Wesleyan minister.

**WADE.**—December 17, aged fifty-two years, Anna, wife of John Wade, Esq., Moorland-road, Leeds, and fourth daughter of the late Edward Baines, Esq., M.P.

**STANTON.**—December 18, at Stratford Lodge, Stroud, Florence Mary, the eldest child of Walter J. Stanton, Jun., aged two years and four months.

**MACINTYRE.**—December 19, at his residence, Grange Cottage, Burslem, James Macintyre, Esq.

**EDWARDS.**—December 20, aged sixty-three years, the Rev. Edward Edwards, of Dryden House, Hulme, Manchester. Friends will kindly accept this intimation.

### BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, Dec. 16.

#### ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£31,901,190	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	3,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	16,901,190
	£31,901,190		£31,901,190

#### BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities (inc. dead weight annuity)	£14,074,874
Reserve	8,072,807	Other Securities	17,494,978
Public Deposits	5,956,838	Notes	9,176,515
Other Deposits	17,972,458	Gold & Silver Coin	1,257,135
Seven Day and other Bills	448,899		
	£43,003,492		£43,003,492

Dec. 17, 1868.

GEORGE FORBES, Chief Cashier.

### Markets.

#### CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, Dec. 21.

There was a very small supply of English wheat to this morning's market, which was disposed of at the rates of this day's night. Foreign sells in retail on fully previous terms. Malting barley 1s. per qr. higher: grinding rather dearer. Beans and peas unaltered. The arrival of foreign oats for the week is moderate. This has enabled factors to make an advance of fully 6d. per qr. on the current prices of this day week. New corn, however, still meets with most attention.

#### CURRENT PRICES.

WHEAT—		Per Qr.		PEAS—		Per Qr.	
		s.	d.			s.	d.
Essex and Kent,							
red, old .. ..	— to —			Gray .. ..	42 to 43		
Ditto new .. ..	50 53			Maple .. ..	46 48		
White, old .. ..	— —			White .. ..	44 46		
„ new .. ..	55 59			Boilers .. ..	44 46		
Foreign red .. ..	49 53			Foreign, boilers ..	44 45		
„ white .. ..	55 57						
BARLEY—				RYE .. ..	40 42		
English malting ..	37 39			OATS—			
Chevalier .. ..	47 52			English feed .. ..	28 34		
Distilling .. ..	43 46			„ potatoes .. ..	32 35		
Foreign .. ..	37 40			Scotch feed .. ..	— —		
MALT—				„ potatoes .. ..	— —		
Pale .. ..	— —			Irish black .. ..	23 26		
Chevalier .. ..	— —			„ white .. ..	24 27		
Brown .. ..	52 62			Foreign feed .. ..	25 28		
BEANS—				FLOUR—			
Ticks .. ..	42 44			Town made .. ..	42 47		
Harrow .. ..	45 47			Country Marks ..	37 38		
Small .. ..	— —			Norfolk & Suffolk	32 33		
Egyptian .. ..	41 43						

**BREAD.**—LONDON, Saturday, Dec. 19. — The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 7d. to 8½d.; household ditto, 5½d. to 7d.

#### METROPOLITAN CATTLE-MARKET, Dec. 21.

The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 3,926 head. In the corresponding week in 1867 we received 7,614; in 1866, 8,935; in 1865, 11,703; and in 1864, 5,406 head. There were only moderate supplies of foreign stock on sale here to-day, for which the trade ruled quiet, at about last Monday's current prices. From our own grazing districts the arrivals were very limited, but the quality of the beasts was good. Trade ruled steady, and Monday's advance was well supported. The general top price was 5s. 8d. per 8lbs. The arrivals of beasts from Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire were about 980 shorthorns, &c.; from other parts of England, about 320 of various breeds; from Scotland, 240 Scots and crosses; and about 180 oxen, cows, &c., from Ireland. The number of sheep in the pens was very short, and the general quality of the animals was inferior. The demand ruled quiet for all breeds; but prices were without material change. Best Downs and half-breeds realised 5s. per 8lbs. Prime small calves were in moderate request, at late rates; otherwise, the trade was dull. Pigs were inactive, at about stationary quotations.

#### Per 8lbs. to sink the Offal.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Inf. coarse beasts	3 6	3 10	Prime Southdown	5 4	5 6
Second quality	4 0	4 8	Lamb	0 0	0 0
Prime large oxen	4 10	5 4	Lge. coarse calves	4 4	5 0
Prime Scots, &c.	5 6	5 8	Prime small	5 2	5 10
Coarse inf. sheep	3 4	3 10	Large hogs	3 6	4 4
Second quality	4 0	4 8	Neaten, porkers	4 6	5 0
Pr. coarse woolled	4 10	5 2			

Suckling calves, 22s. to 25s.; and quarter-old store pigs, 22s. to 25s. each.

#### SMITHFIELD MEAT MARKET, Monday, Dec. 21.

There have been moderate supplies of meat on sale here to-day. The trade has ruled firm at the prices annexed. The imports into London last week comprised 6 packages from Amsterdam, 213 from Hamburg, and 46 from Harlingen.

#### Per 8lbs. by the carcass.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Inferior beef	3 0	3 4	Inf. mutton	3 2	3 6
Middling ditto	3 6	4 0	Middling ditto	3 8	4 2
Prime large do.	4 2	4 6	Prime ditto	4 4	4 8
Do. small do.	4 8	4 10	Veal	3 8	4 10
Large pork	3 2	3 10	Small pork	4 0	4 8

**PROVISIONS, Monday, Dec. 21.**—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 531 firkins butter, and 8,150 bales bacon, and from foreign ports, 26,867 casks, &c., butter, and 1,819 bales bacon. The Irish butter market remains without change in prices or demand: the sale extremely limited. Foreign sold well: the finest qualities most inquired for, and prices improved 2s. to 3s. per cwt. The bacon market ruled steady. Best Waterford sold fairly at 70s. on board; holders very firm, influenced by the high prices paying for pigs in Ireland.



**COVENT GARDEN MARKET, LONDON, Saturday, Dec. 19.**—Supplies both of fruit and vegetables are abundant, and prices are barely kept up. The weather is very unfavourable for keeping fruit. Almonds are exceedingly fine this season, and worth from 8s. to 10s. per dozen pounds. Very fine onions are arriving from Bordeaux, at 12s. to 14s. the cwt. Kent cobs are still abundant, at 90s. 100lb. Oranges are very plentiful. The potato trade is very dull, except for the best samples, of which there is a scanty supply in general, though there are large arrivals of kidney potatoes of fine quality from Belgium, realising 90s. per score bags of about 110 lb. each. Flowers chiefly consist of orchids, pelargoniums, primulas, hyacinths, tulips, heaths, mignonette, and poinsettias.

**BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, Dec. 21.**—Our market exhibits an improved demand for almost every class of hops, making prices a shade better, and causing holders to be very firm in their quotations. Continental markets are unchanged, and the imports into London still continue heavy, keeping prices effectually in check. New York advices to the 28th ult., report a dull market, the pressure of hops to sale had the effect of depressing values. Mid and East Kent, 2l. 10s., 5l. to 8l. 6s.; Weald of Kent, 2l. 10s., to 4l. 10s.; Sussex, 2l. 10s., to 4l. 4s.; Farnham, 4l. 6s., to 6l.; Country, 4l. 4l. 10s., to 5l. 5s.; Bavarians, 2l. 10s., 3l. 10s., to 4l. 10s.; Belgians, 2l. 2s., 2l. 10s., to 3l.; Yearlings, 2l. 10s., to 4l. 4s. The imports of foreign hops into London last week consisted of 423 bales from Antwerp, 83 Boulogne, 520 Calais, 48 Dordt, 161 Dunkirk, 440 Hamburg, 284 Rotterdam, 16 Rouen, 121 Ostend, and 681 bales from New York.

**SEED, Monday, Dec. 21.**—English red cloverseed comes forward very slowly; choice dark quality commands very high prices. Belgian is also high in proportion, and prime German samples have advanced on the week a few shillings per cwt. French qualities are too low to command much attention; yet a large lot of old American has been placed since last Monday at 43s. per cwt.; quality low. White cloverseed remains dear. In Trefoils, no move to vary its value. Spring tares met a fair inquiry, and were quite as dear.

**WOOL, Monday, Dec. 21.**—Only a moderate business has been passing in English wool, the attention of the trade having been principally directed to the colonial wool sales, which, however, close to-night. A more active inquiry is anticipated after the termination of the holidays. The demand has been chiefly for fine combing qualities, but prices of all descriptions have ruled firm.

**OIL, Monday, Dec. 21.**—Lined oil has been quiet but firmer in value. Rape has sold at full prices. In other oils the business doing has been limited. Petroleum has been in improved request, and turpentine has commanded a fair share of attention.

**TALLOW, Monday, Dec. 21.**—The market is quiet, at 49s. Y.C. on the spot. Town Tallow 47s. 6d., net cash.

**COAL, Monday, Dec. 21.**—Market firm, at the rates of last day. Wallend Hettions, 18s.; Haswell 18s.; Hettion Lyons 16s.; Original Hartlepool 18s.; South Hartlepool 16s. 8d.; Tynes 17s. 6d.; Turnhall, 15s. 8d.; Holywell Main 16s. 6d.; West Wylam 15s. 6d.; Hartleys, 15s. 6d. Ships fresh arrived, 29; ships left from last day, 6—total, 35. Ships at sea, 110.

## Advertisements.

**THE SUNDAY SERVICES at ST. JAMES'S HALL** will be conducted on and after Sunday, January 3, 1869, by the Rev. NEWMAN HALL, LL.B., by request of a body of Christian Laymen, including Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Wesleyans, and Congregationalists. At these services the Doctrines of Evangelical Christianity will be expounded on the basis of Holy Scripture; and the worship will include portions of the English Liturgy with free prayer. An offertory for expenses at each service. Afternoon Service from 3 to 4, Litany and Sermon; to be followed by a short Prayer Meeting. Evening Service from 6.30 to 8, Evening Prayer and Sermon. The doors will be opened for free admission to the public half-an-hour before each service. Tickets for Reserved Seats for a single service, a month or a quarter of a year, may be had of Mr. Edwards, 32, Carnaby-street, Regent-street; Messrs. Nisbet and Co., Berners-street; Mr. Holmes, 195, Oxford-street; Messrs. Snow and Co., Ivy-lane, Paternoster-row; and Mr. Austin, Ticket Office, St. James's Hall, where also may be obtained the Hymn-Book, specially prepared for the St. James's Hall Services, price 3d.

**IMPROVED DWELLINGS FOR THE PEOPLE. THE ARTIZANS' LABOURERS', and GENERAL DWELLINGS COMPANY (Limited).** Capital, £250,000. Shares, £10. £1 paid per Share. **PRESIDENT**—The Dean of WESTMINSTER. **ARBITRATORS** Right Hon. Earl Shaftesbury, Right Hon. Earl Lichfield, Lord Elio, M.P., &c., &c., &c. **LOCAL COUNCIL** Thos. Bazley, Esq., M.P., Jacob Bright, Esq., M.P., John Cheetham, Esq., M.P., W. R. Callender jun., Esq., M.P. **W. SWINDLEHURST**, Manager and Secretary. The Company is especially formed to erect improved workmen's dwellings on the co-operative principle. No beer-shop or tavern to be erected on the Company's property. Profits realised by workmen employed on the buildings, 40 per cent. Deposits received at 5 per cent. Prospectuses on application, enclosing postage-stamp. Office, 1, Great College-street (opposite the House of Lords), Westminster, London.

**MIDNIGHT MEETING MOVEMENT.** Since the commencement of the winter, seven meetings have been held in those districts of the metropolis most frequented by unfortunate girls. 503 have attended these meetings, and eighty-nine have been rescued, who are now in homes or otherwise provided for. To continue this important work pecuniary help is urgently needed, which will be thankfully received by Mr. John Stabb, Hon. Sec., 8, Red Lion-square, London, W.C., or at the Union Bank of London, Carey-street Branch, W.C.

**PALESTINE, EGYPT, GREECE, TURKEY, &c.**—Mr. HENRY GAZE proposes to conduct, for the THIRD time, a party of Ladies and Gentlemen (number limited) through the East, starting February 1st, 1869. Prospectuses, maps, &c., ed., post free, 7d., to be had of Mr. Henry Gaze, Tourist Office, Southampton, or of Messrs. Lettis, Son, and Co., 8, Royal Exchange, London.

**CERTIFICATED MALE TEACHER** WANTED for a BRITISH SCHOOL about to be ESTABLISHED in a newly-erected Building well adapted for the purpose. A Member of an Independent Church preferred. An able, energetic teacher would find this a most desirable opening.—Address, the Rev. John H. Onston, Bury, Lancashire.

**WANTED by an EXPERIENCED CERTIFICATED MASTER, a BRITISH SCHOOL.** Passed every boy presented last Examination in Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic. Certificate Raised, Sings at sight, Teaches music.—Address, The Master, British School, Staines.

## PROTESTANT UNION, for the BENEFIT of the WIDOWS and CHILDREN of PROTESTANT MINISTERS of ALL DENOMINATIONS.

**DIRECTORS.** Revs. Dr. Hailey, John Stoughton, Robert Ashton, John Kennedy, A.M., Dr. G. Smith, T. W. Aveling. This Society affords the most advantageous medium, through which Ministers, by the payment of an annual premium, can secure a proportionate annuity for their Widows, or an equivalent advantage for their Children. At the last valuation the premiums of all members, admitted prior to January 1st, 1866, were reduced 30 per cent. Communications may be addressed to the Secretary, Rev. CHARLES FOX VARDY, at the office, 7, Blomfield-street, Finsbury, E.C., where attendance is given every Tuesday and Friday, from Eleven to One o'clock.

**THE LARGE ORGAN for BEDDINGTON CHURCH, SURREY,** being now complete, may be seen at any time between the hours of 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., at Messrs. Thomas C. Lewis and Co.'s Manufactory, Shepherd's-Lane, Brixton, S.W. This instrument is constructed on the combined principles of Schulse of Paulinzelle, Germany, and Cavallie-Coll of Paris.

**ORGAN FOR SALE OR HIRE.** The Organ by Walker, from Beddington Church, Surrey, restored and externally done up as new, will be sold on very reasonable terms, to make room for new work; or lent on hire. It has two manuals and fifteen draw stops. Apply to Thomas C. Lewis and Co., Shepherd's-lane, Brixton, S.W.

**WATCH for EVERYBODY**—by Streeter's Machinery. New Lecture, with full illustrations of the English Machine-made Watch, by Professor Pepper, commencing Wednesday next, at 8.—"The Spectre Barber," with marvellous effects, daily at 8 and 8.30.—The New Electric Organ, daily at 1.30 and 7.30, by Herr Schalkenbach.—New Lecture, by J. L. King, Esq., on "Earthquakes and Volcanoes."—"La Belle France and the Maid of Orleans," daily at 4 and 9, by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coots.—At the ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.

**TO CAPITALISTS.—£70 WANTED for Two Months** under peculiar circumstances, by a Gentleman holding an important official position of several hundreds per annum. £80 returned for the immediate accommodation. Address, in the first instance, K. Z., Post-office, 2, Devereux-court, Temple.

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